A CentaUr's Life
8
君原
story & art
KEI MURAYAMA

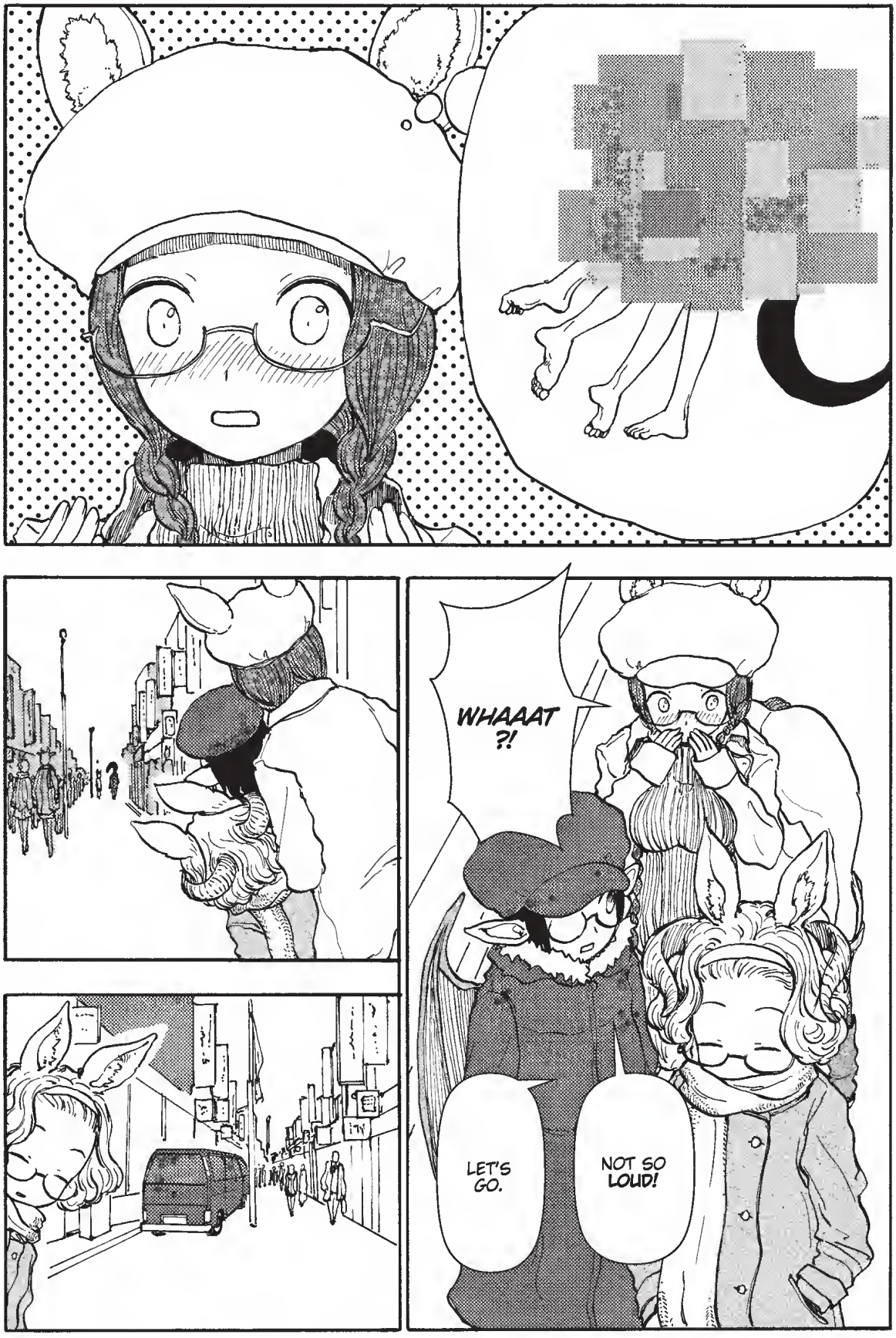
君原

CLIPPITY
CLOP
SORRY! WERE YOU WAITING LONG?
OH, HEY. KILLER DISGUISE.
HEE HEE!
WOMP-WOMP~!
PROBABLY HER BUILD AND HEIGHT.
BUT FOR SOME REASON, IT'S STILL UNMISTAKABLY HIME...
BUT ANY-WAY.

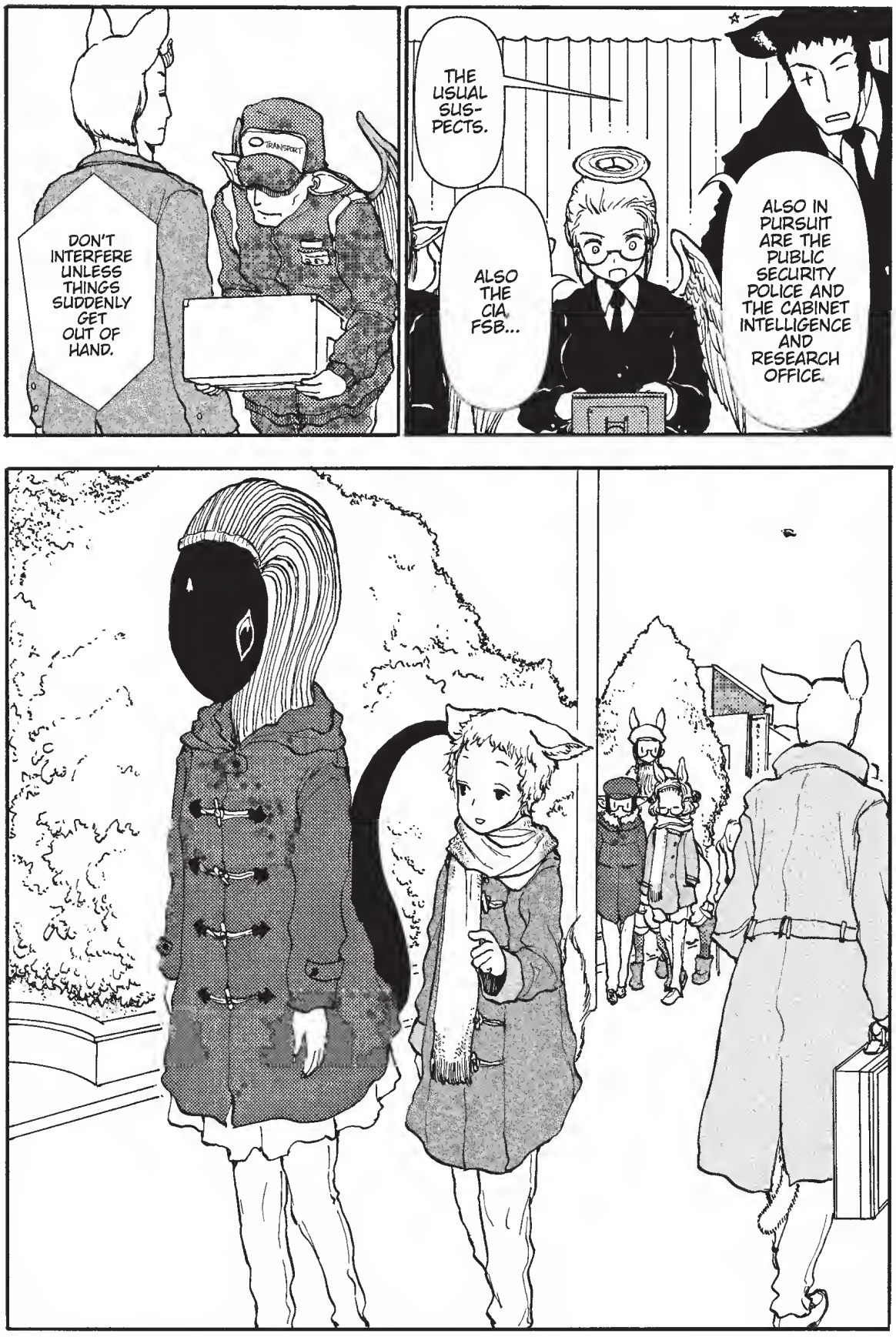
CHAPTER 45

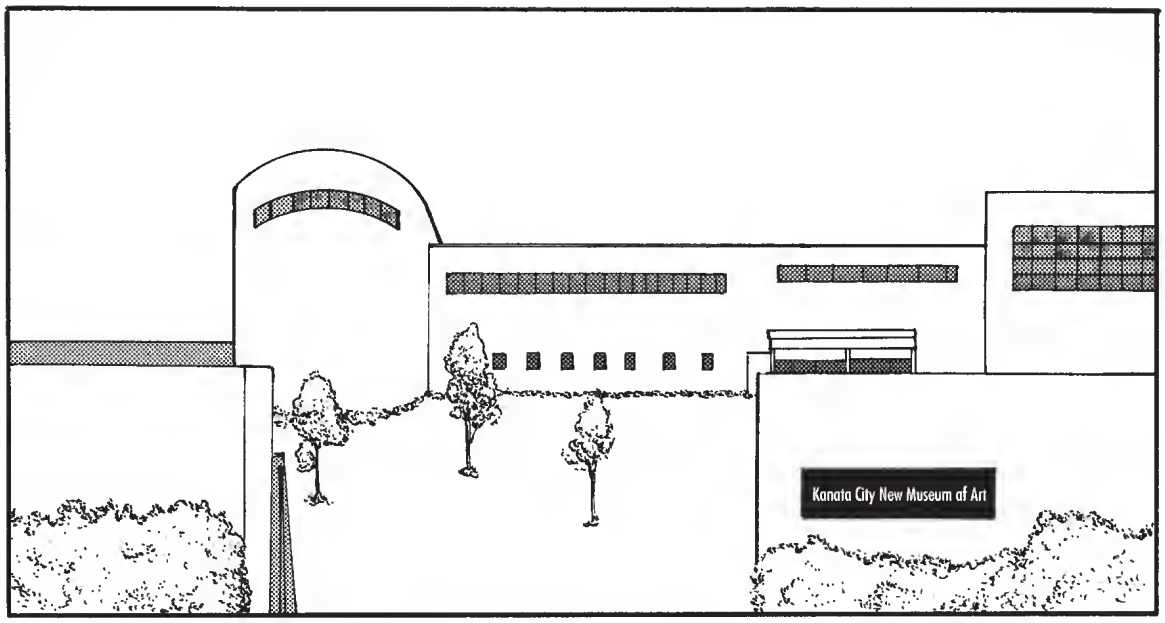
AND *THAT* GUY'S THE TYPE TO SHOW UP FIFTEEN MINUTES EARLY.
THERE'S STILL ABOUT FIFTEEN MINUTES.
2014/X/X
10:45
IT'S ABOUT THAT TIME. SHALL WE?
OH...
AS IF. NOW KEEP WATCHING OUTSIDE.
YOU TREATIN', KYOKO?
HE ACTUALLY **DID** SHOW UP FIFTEEN MINUTES EARLY.

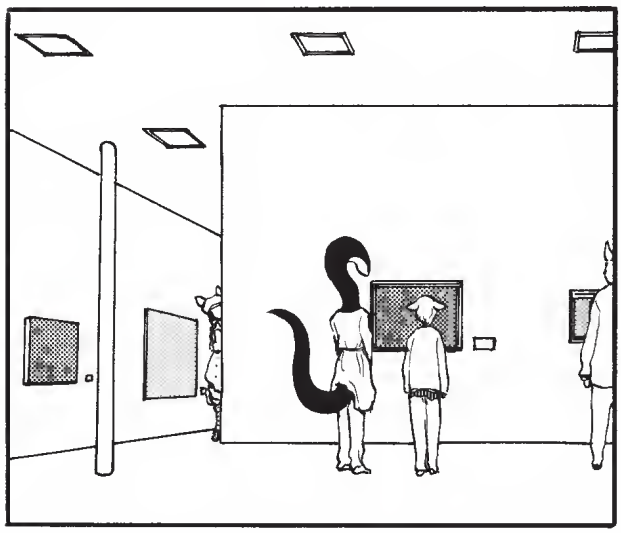
ALL RIGHT, STICK TO 'EM.
IT'LL BE TROUBLE IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG, RIGHT?
ER, IS THIS REALLY OKAY?
"PROMISCUOUS FRATERNIZATION," IF YOU WILL...
Y'KNOW, LIKE, ER...
"SOMETHING GOES WRONG"?

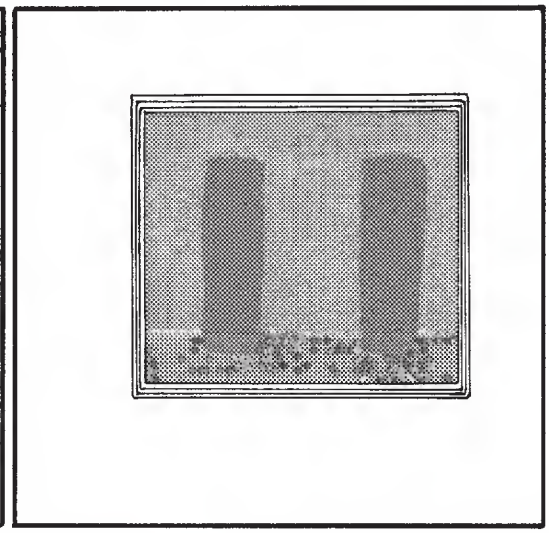

WHAAAT ?!
LET'S GO.
NOT SO LOUD!

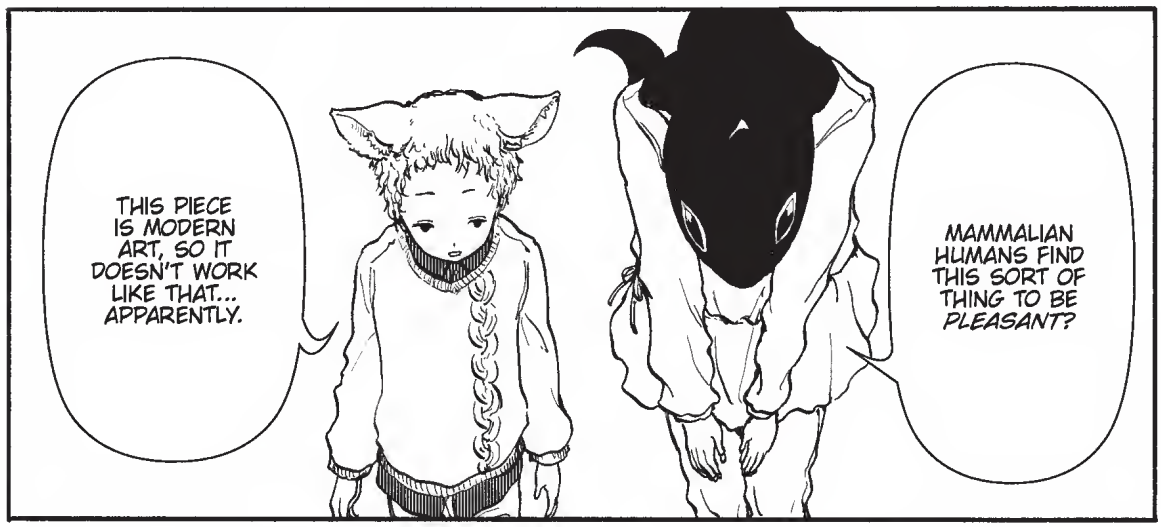
THERE ARE UNIDENTIFIED PURSUERS.
TARGET IS ON THE MOVE.
UNIDENTIFIED
UNIDENTIFIED
UNIDENTIFIED
I'M TRANS-FERRING IMAGES.
I'LL START SEARCH-ING THE DATABASE OF KNOWN TERRORIST ORGANIZA-TIONS, AND--
NO, DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT. THEY'RE THE SUBJECT'S CLASS-MATES.
THAT MEANS IT'S JUST KIDS PULLING A PRANK. LET IT BE.


TRANSPORT
DON'T INTERFERE UNLESS THINGS SUDDENLY GET OUT OF HAND.
THE USUAL SUS-PECTS.
ALSO THE CIA. FSB...
ALSO IN PURSUIT ARE THE PUBLIC SECURITY POLICE AND THE CABINET INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH OFFICE.


Kanata City New Museum of Art

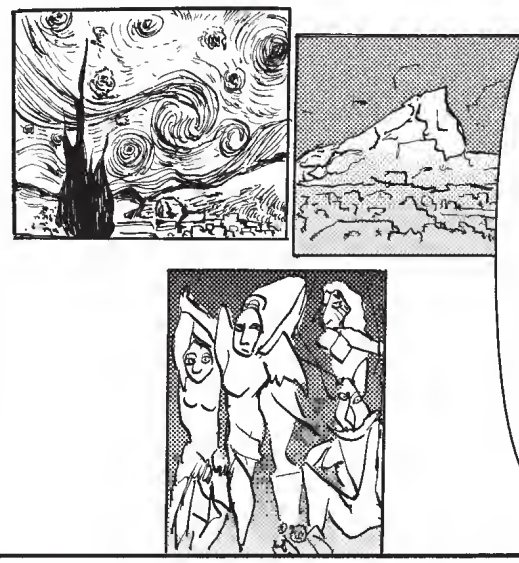





THIS PIECE IS MODERN ART, SO IT DOESN'T WORK LIKE THAT... APPARENTLY.
MAMMALIAN HUMANS FIND THIS SORT OF THING TO BE *PLEASANT?*

TRADITIONALLY, "FINE ART" IS WHAT WE CALL THE CREATION OF INHERENTLY BEAUTIFUL THINGS, BE THEY PICTURES OR OBJECTS.
I REALLY DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT IT AT ALL, BUT TO TRY AND EXPLAIN...
INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY ALLOWS US TO MASS-PRODUCE INTRICATE OBJECTS CHEAPLY AND FLAWLESSLY.
BUT IN THE MODERN AGE, PHOTOGRAPHIC TECHNOLOGY CAN CAPTURE SUCH IMAGES MORE FAITHFULLY AND ACCURATELY THAN ANY PAINTING.
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU COULD JUST GO DOWN TO THE LOCAL ART SUPPLY STORE AND PICK UP A PAINTBRUSH, AFTER ALL.
IN THE OLDEN DAYS, IT WAS QUITE RARE TO BE ABLE TO CREATE, LET ALONE OWN, SUCH THINGS.
BUT IT HAD TO BE SOMETHING PLEASING TO ANYONE WHO SAW IT. TAKE THE MOVIE WAR OF THE WORLDS, FOR INSTANCE. EVEN WITH TEN TIMES THE MONEY, YOU CAN'T WATCH A MOVIE TEN TIMES AS INTERESTING.
BEAUTY, WHICH HAD ONCE BEEN CONSIDERED SPECIAL, BECAME AN EVERYDAY THING IN ABUNDANCE. IT BECAME NECESSARY TO FIND A NEW TYPE OF SPECIAL BEAUTY.

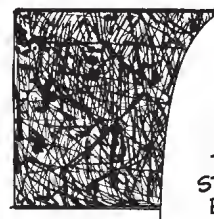
AFRICAN ART, WHICH HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN THOUGHT OF AS CRUDE, STARTED TO RECEIVE RECOGNITION.

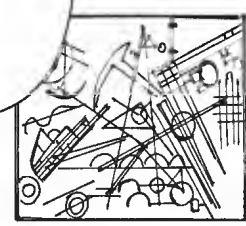


SO PEOPLE STARTED DRAWING THINGS FROM A SUBJECTIVE PERSPECTIVE-- THINGS THAT **COULDN'T** BE CAPTURED BY A PHOTOGRAPH.

EVENTUALLY, EVEN *THAT* DISAPPEARED, AND YOU STARTED SEEING FACTORY-MADE OBJECTS THAT WEREN'T BEAUTIFUL AT ALL, PUT ON DISPLAY AS ART.

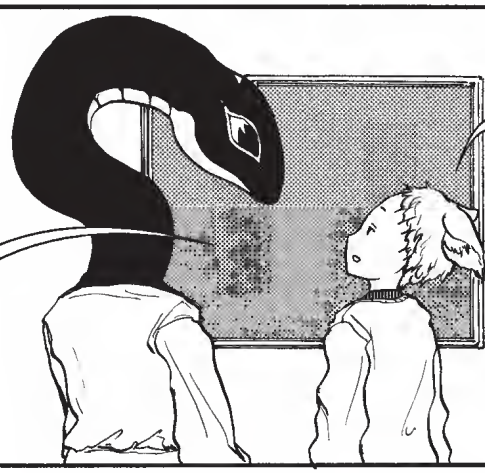
BUT EVEN THOSE STILL HAD SOME KIND OF ASPECT OF VISUAL ATTRACTIVENESS.



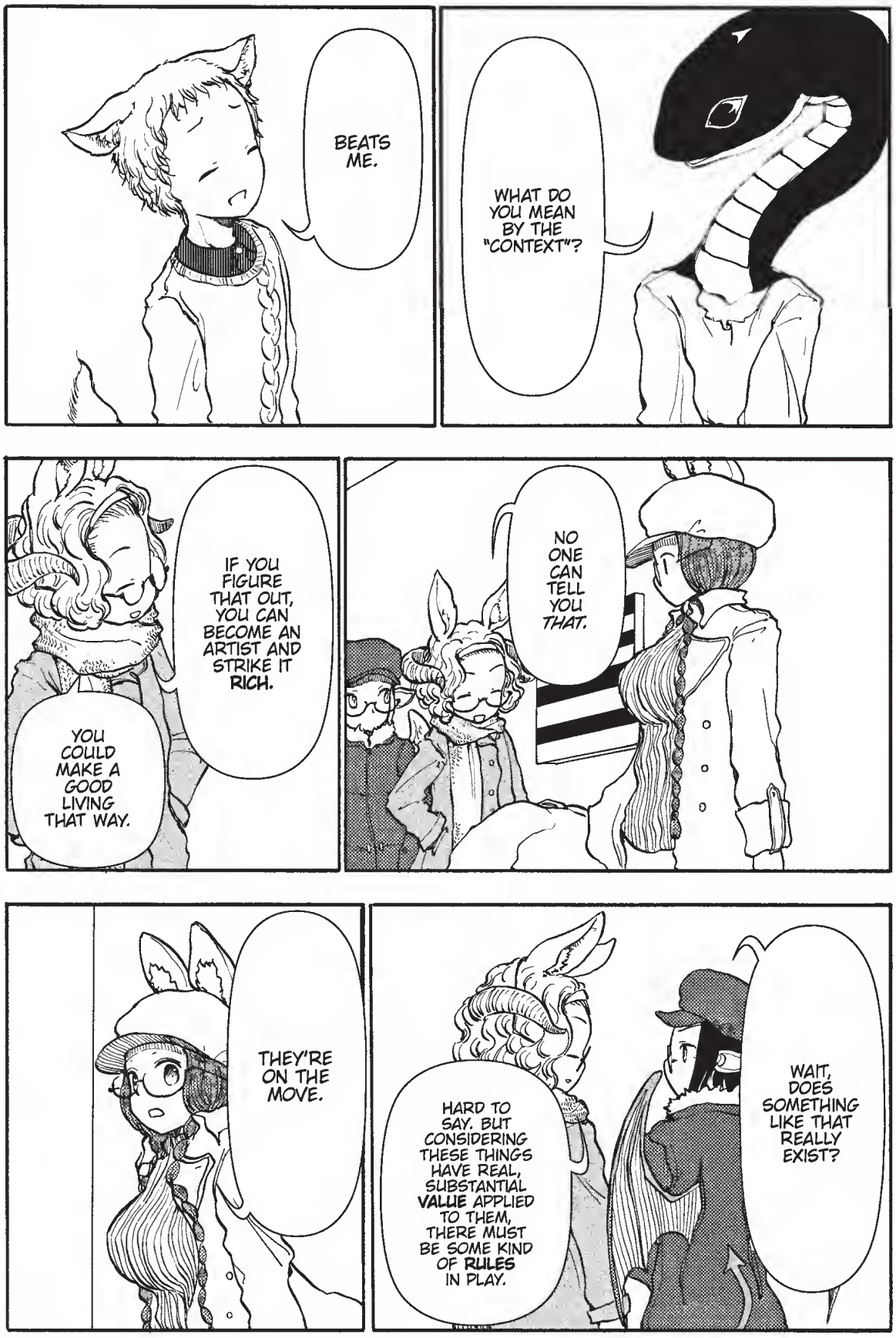


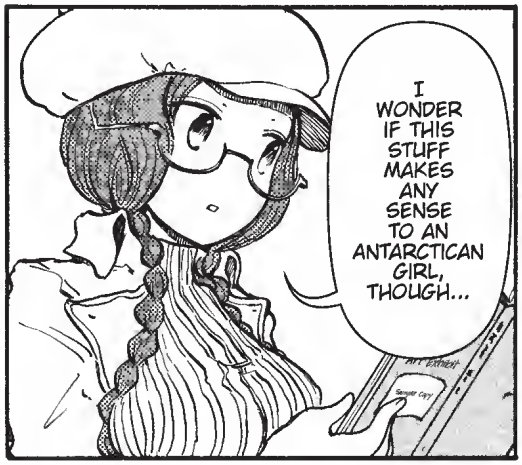
PEOPLE CONTINUED TOYING WITH STANDARDS OF BEAUTY, AND YOU STARTED SEEING ABSTRACT ART, OR ART WHICH DISPLAYED **NO IMAGE** AT ALL.

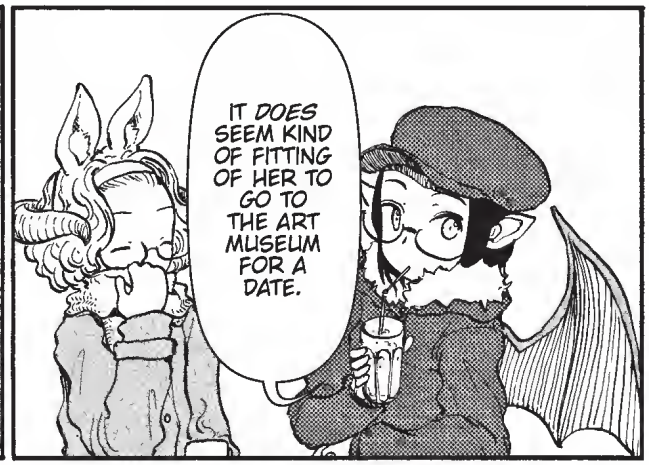
AT LEAST, THAT'S THE **GIST** OF WHAT I'VE HEARD.

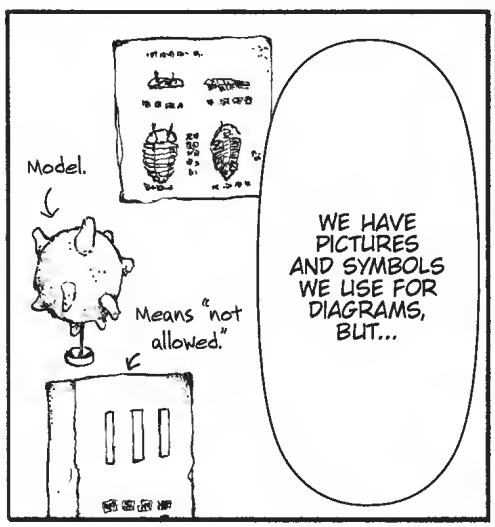


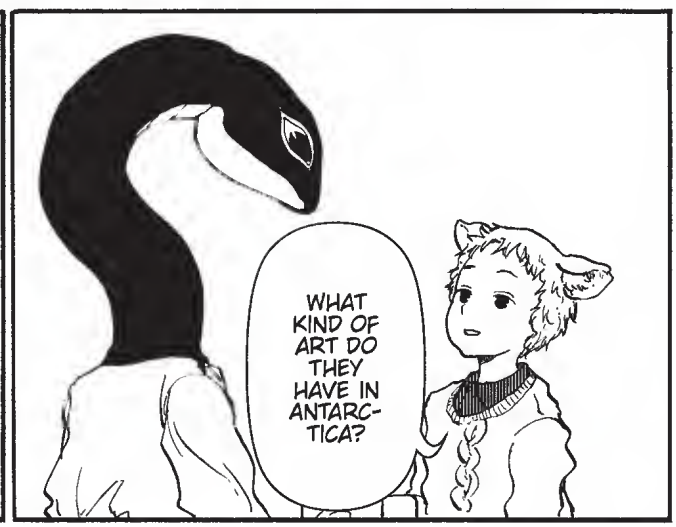
AT THIS POINT, IT'S TURNED INTO A SORT OF **GAME,** TO SEE HOW MANY DIFFERENT WAYS THE CONCEPT AND CONTEXT OF "ART" CAN BE REINTERPRETED.

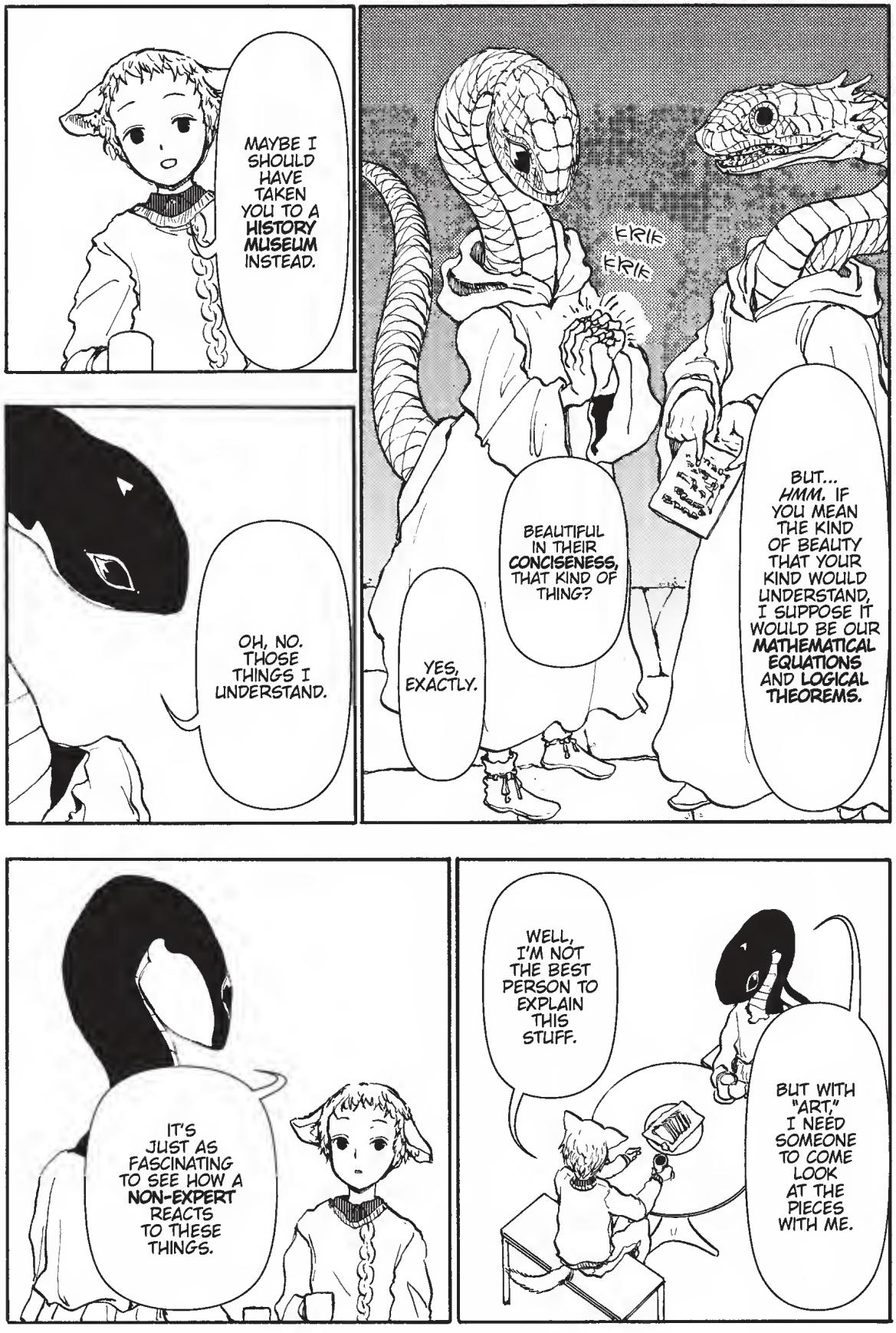

BEATS ME.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THE "CONTEXT"?
IF YOU FIGURE THAT OUT, YOU CAN BECOME AN ARTIST AND STRIKE IT **RICH.**
YOU COULD MAKE A GOOD LIVING THAT WAY.
NO ONE CAN TELL YOU *THAT.*
THEY'RE ON THE MOVE.
HARD TO SAY. BUT CONSIDERING THESE THINGS HAVE REAL, SUBSTANTIAL **VALUE** APPLIED TO THEM, THERE MUST BE SOME KIND OF **RULES** IN PLAY.
WAIT, DOES SOMETHING LIKE THAT REALLY EXIST?


I WONDER IF THIS STUFF MAKES ANY SENSE TO AN ANTARCTICAN GIRL, THOUGH...


IT DOES SEEM KIND OF FITTING OF HER TO GO TO THE ART MUSEUM FOR A DATE.

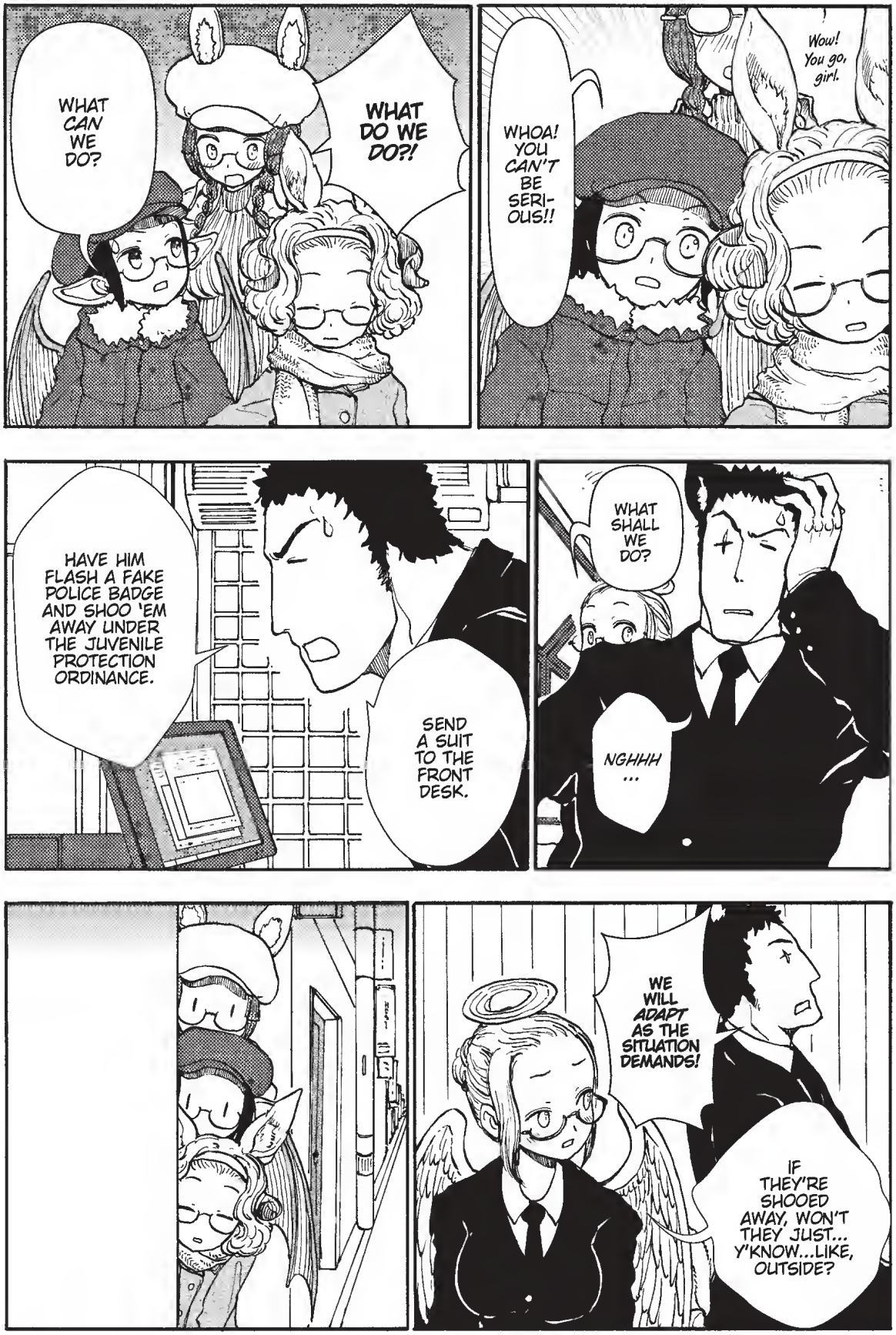

Model.
Means "not allowed."
WE HAVE PICTURES AND SYMBOLS WE USE FOR DIAGRAMS, BUT...


WHAT KIND OF ART DO THEY HAVE IN ANTARC-TICA?


MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE TAKEN YOU TO A HISTORY MUSEUM INSTEAD.
ERIK ERIK
BUT... HMM. IF YOU MEAN THE KIND OF BEAUTY THAT YOUR KIND WOULD UNDERSTAND, I SUPPOSE IT WOULD BE OUR MATHEMATICAL EQUATIONS AND LOGICAL THEOREMS.
BEAUTIFUL IN THEIR CONCISENESS, THAT KIND OF THING?
YES, EXACTLY.
OH, NO. THOSE THINGS I UNDERSTAND.
WELL, I'M NOT THE BEST PERSON TO EXPLAIN THIS STUFF.
BUT WITH "ART," I NEED SOMEONE TO COME LOOK AT THE PIECES WITH ME.
IT'S JUST AS FASCINATING TO SEE HOW A NON-EXPERT REACTS TO THESE THINGS.

THEY'RE HEADING TOWARD THE STATION.
DON'T BE STAYING OUT TOO LATE NOW.
THE SUN'S GONE DOWN, YET THEY CONTINUE?
WHAT THE...?

LOVE HOTEL LO
CRAFT
HOTEL
Gormenghast


WHAT CAN WE DO?
WHAT DO WE DO?!
WHOA! YOU CAN'T BE SERI-OUS!!
Wow! You go, girl.
HAVE HIM FLASH A FAKE POLICE BADGE AND SHOO 'EM AWAY UNDER THE JUVENILE PROTECTION ORDINANCE.
SEND A SUIT TO THE FRONT DESK.
WHAT SHALL WE DO?
NGHHH...
WE WILL ADAPT AS THE SITUATION DEMANDS!
IF THEY'RE SHOOED AWAY, WON'T THEY JUST... Y'KNOW...LIKE, OUTSIDE?

PASS
HOURLY
NIGHTLY
HOURLY
NIGHTLY
Phew...
OH...
A USED BOOK-STORE?
SO MATURE, AMIRITE?
USED BOOKS

HOW WAS YOUR DATE YESTERDAY?
I GOT TO SEE SOME FASCINATING THINGS.
I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THEM, BUT IT WAS REFRESHING NOT TO UNDERSTAND.
WHAT DID YOU THINK, HIMENO-SAN?
WELL, I DIDN'T REALLY GET IT EITH--
HEY!

A CentaUr's Life

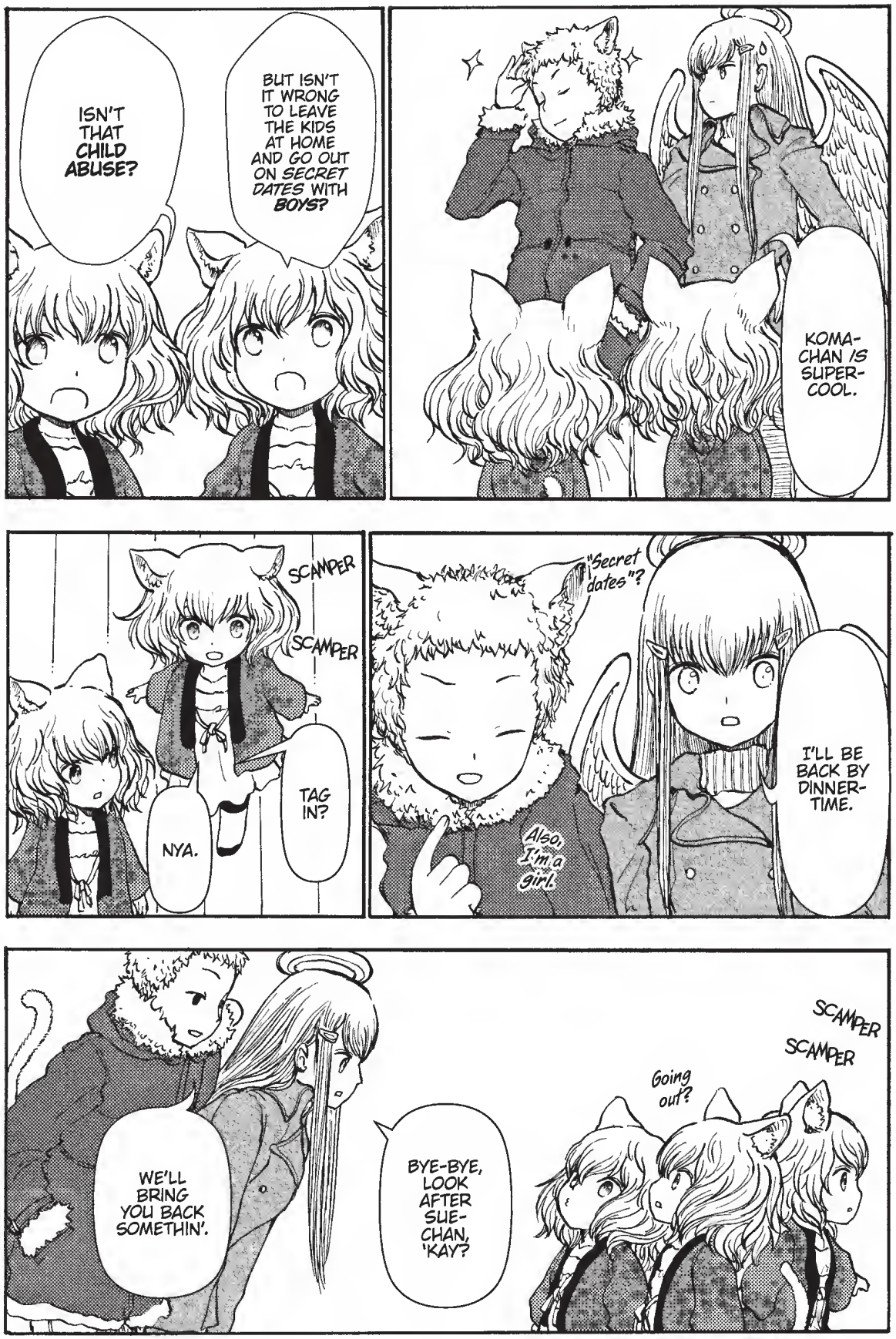
TRADITIONAL DRESS FROM AROUND THE WORLD (FRANCE)

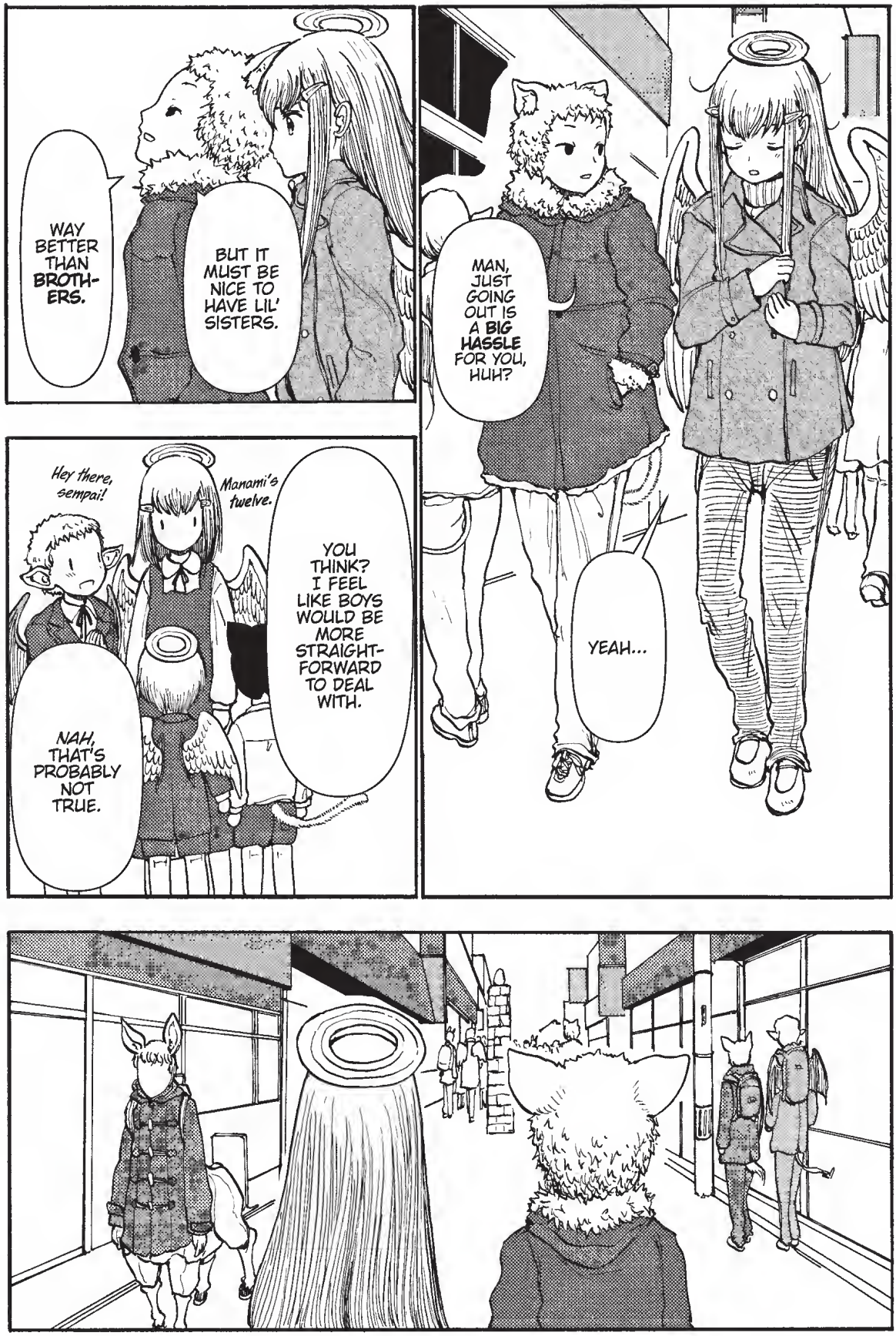
AT THE LIBERATION FESTIVAL, CENTAURS DRESSED AS GUARDS OF THE FIRST FRENCH EMPIRE MARCH DOWN A LARGE STREET IN PARIS, BEGINNING AT WHAT WERE ONCE CENTAUR "STUD FARMS" AND ARRIVING AT THE FORMER BARRACKS. THE WESTERN CENTAURS, ONCE "BRED" AS SLAVES, HAVE NO HISTORY OF THEIR ANCIENT PAST. OLD TRACES OF CENTAURS BEAR NO CONNECTION TO THE CURRENT STATE, AND SERVE AS LITTLE MORE THAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL RELICS. THE HISTORY OF WESTERN CENTAURS AS *PEOPLE* BEGAN WITH THEIR EMANCIPATION FROM THE SHACKLES OF SLAVERY BY THAT HERO OF LEGEND, NAPOLEON. AND SO, TOO, BEGAN AN AGE OF GLORY. THE IMPERIAL ARMY, COMPOSED MAINLY OF LIBERATED CENTAURS, CONQUERED LANDS ACROSS EUROPE, AGGRESSIVELY WIELDING THEIR REPUTATION AS THE MIGHTIEST FORCE IN THE WORLD.

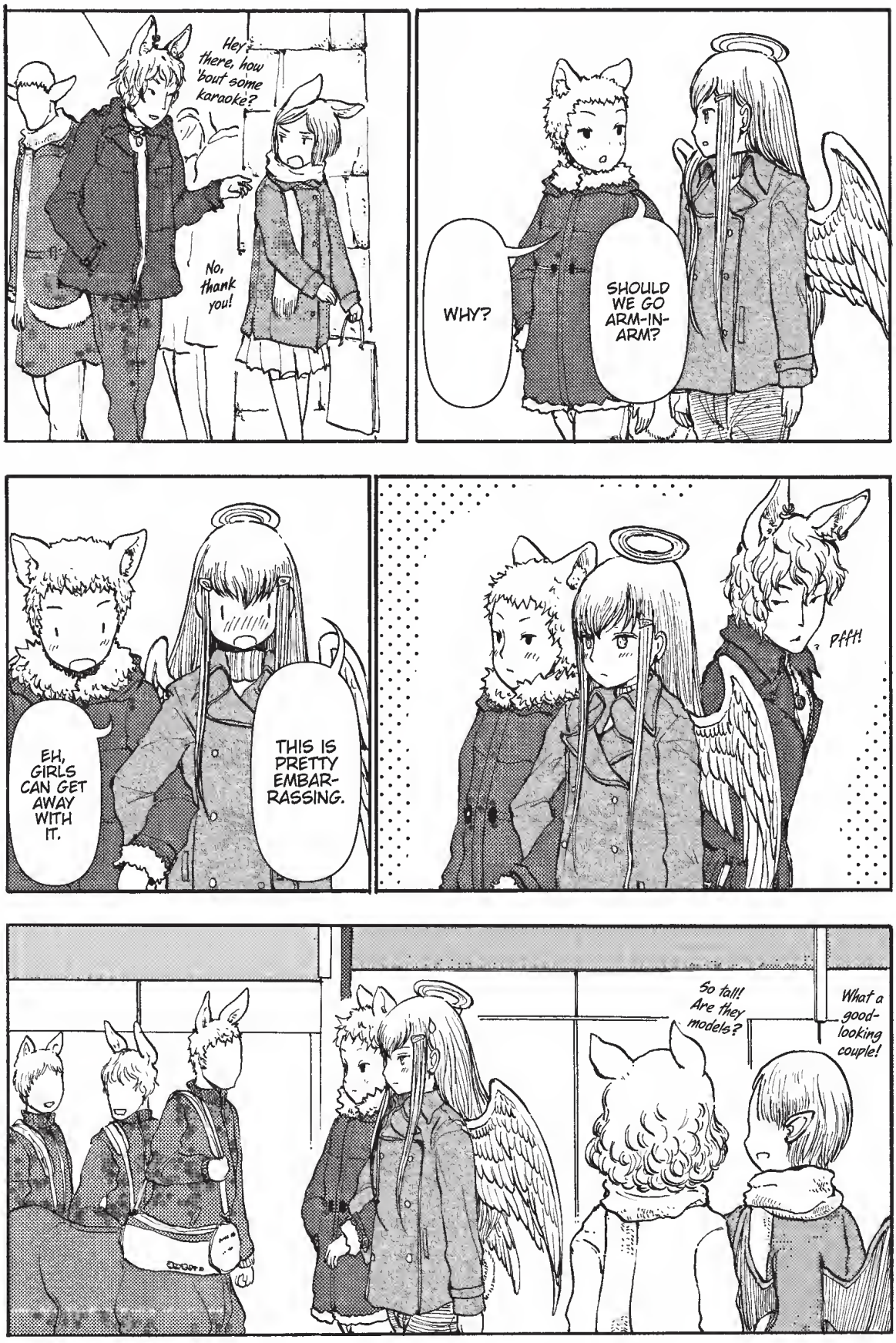
AFTER THE FALL OF THE FIRST EMPIRE CAME THE REVIVAL OF THE MONARCHY, WHICH DESPISED THE CENTAUR SOLDIERS, WHO WERE ALMOST INVARIABLY VEHEMENT BONAPARTISTS. THE MONARCHY WAS ULTIMATELY UNABLE TO STOP THE LIBERATION FESTIVAL, JUST AS THE FRENCH REPUBLIC THAT FOLLOWED WAS UNABLE TO STOP THE MARCH OF THE NAZIS WHO WOULD CAPTURE PARIS. ONE NEED LOOK NO FURTHER THAN THAT "MOST MISERABLE OF MONARCHS," KING LOUIS, TO SEE WHAT FATE AWAITED ANYONE WHO DARED TRY.

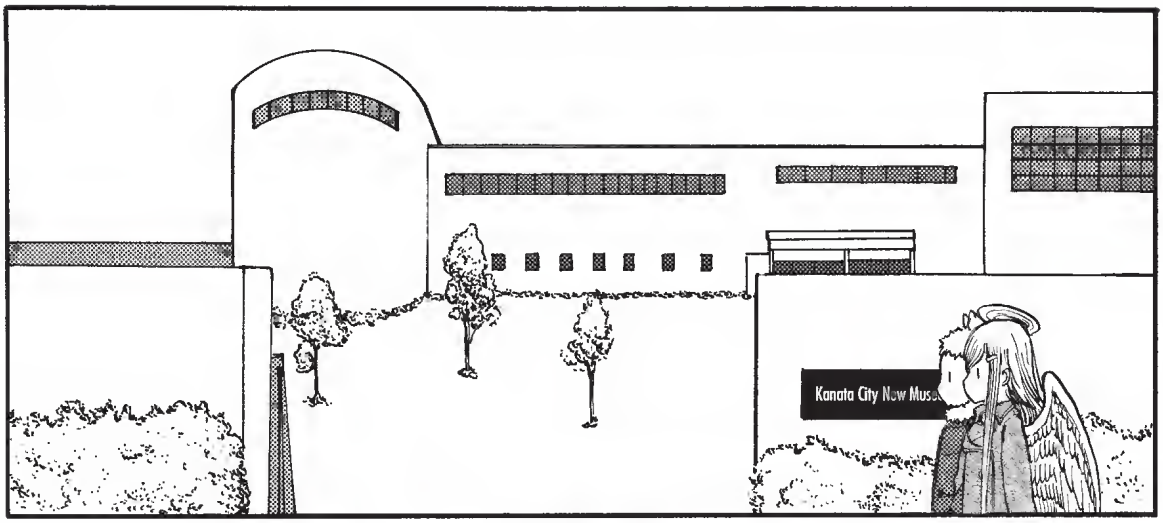
LOOK AFTER THE HOUSE FOR ME, 'KAY? DAD'S HERE TODAY, THOUGH, SO YOU SHOULD BE FINE.
NO WAY, JOSÉ!
GOING OUT?
THAT'S RIGHT.
WHAT UP, TAMA?
WELL, THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT THAT, RIGHT?
DADDY'S JUST PAINTING PICTURES ALL DAY LONG!

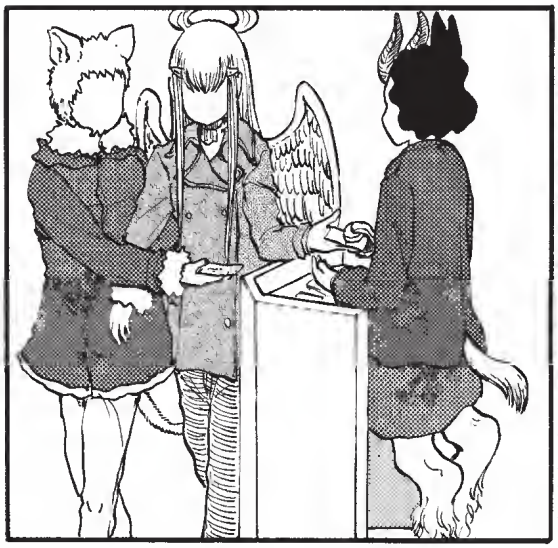
CHAPTER 46
YUP, YUP.
What up, chibis!
SHUNK
ARE YOU ON A DATE?

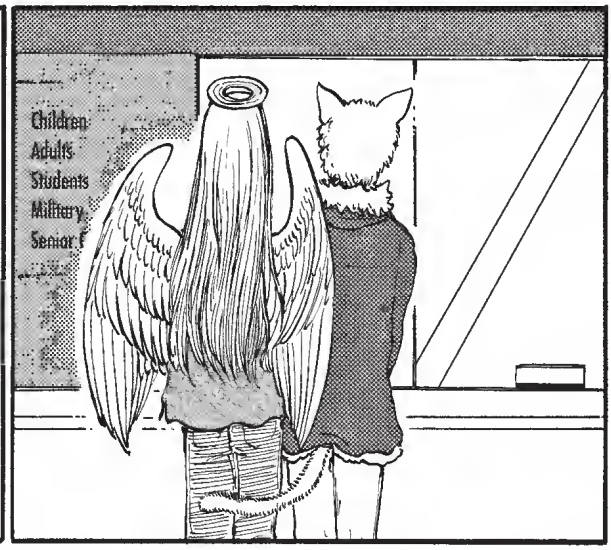

ISN'T THAT CHILD ABUSE?
BUT ISN'T IT WRONG TO LEAVE THE KIDS AT HOME AND GO OUT ON SECRET DATES WITH BOYS?
KOMA-CHAN IS SUPER-COOL.
SCAMPER
SCAMPER
TAG IN?
NYA.
"Secret dates"?
I'LL BE BACK BY DINNER-TIME.
Also, I'm a girl.
SCAMPER
SCAMPER
Going out?
WE'LL BRING YOU BACK SOMETHIN'.
BYE-BYE, LOOK AFTER SUE-CHAN, 'KAY?

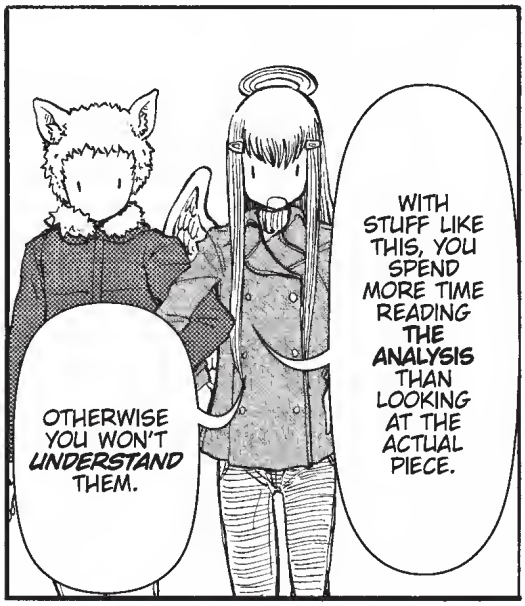

MAN, JUST GOING OUT IS A BIG HASSLE FOR YOU, HUH?
YEAH...
BUT IT MUST BE NICE TO HAVE LIL' SISTERS.
WAY BETTER THAN BROTH-ERS.
Hey there, sempai!
Manami's twelve.
YOU THINK? I FEEL LIKE BOYS WOULD BE MORE STRAIGHT-FORWARD TO DEAL WITH.
NAH, THAT'S PROBABLY NOT TRUE.

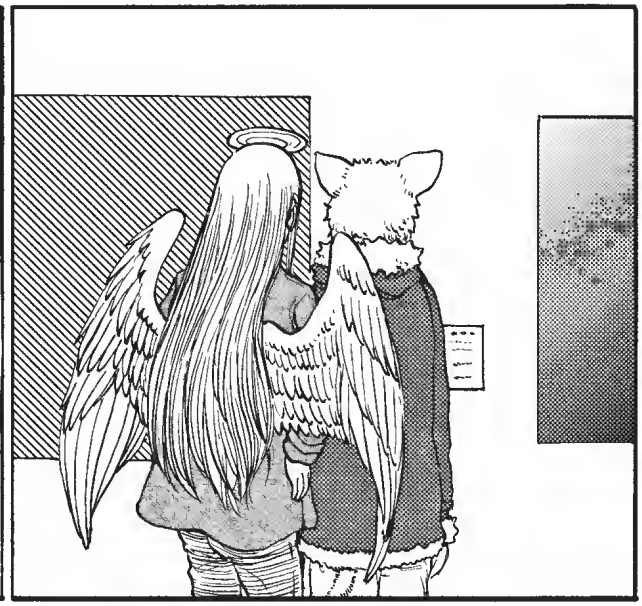

Hey there, how 'bout some karaoke?
No, thank you!
WHY?
SHOULD WE GO ARM-IN-ARM?
EH, GIRLS CAN GET AWAY WITH IT.
THIS IS PRETTY EMBARRASSING.
Pfft!
So tall! Are they models?
What a good-looking couple!

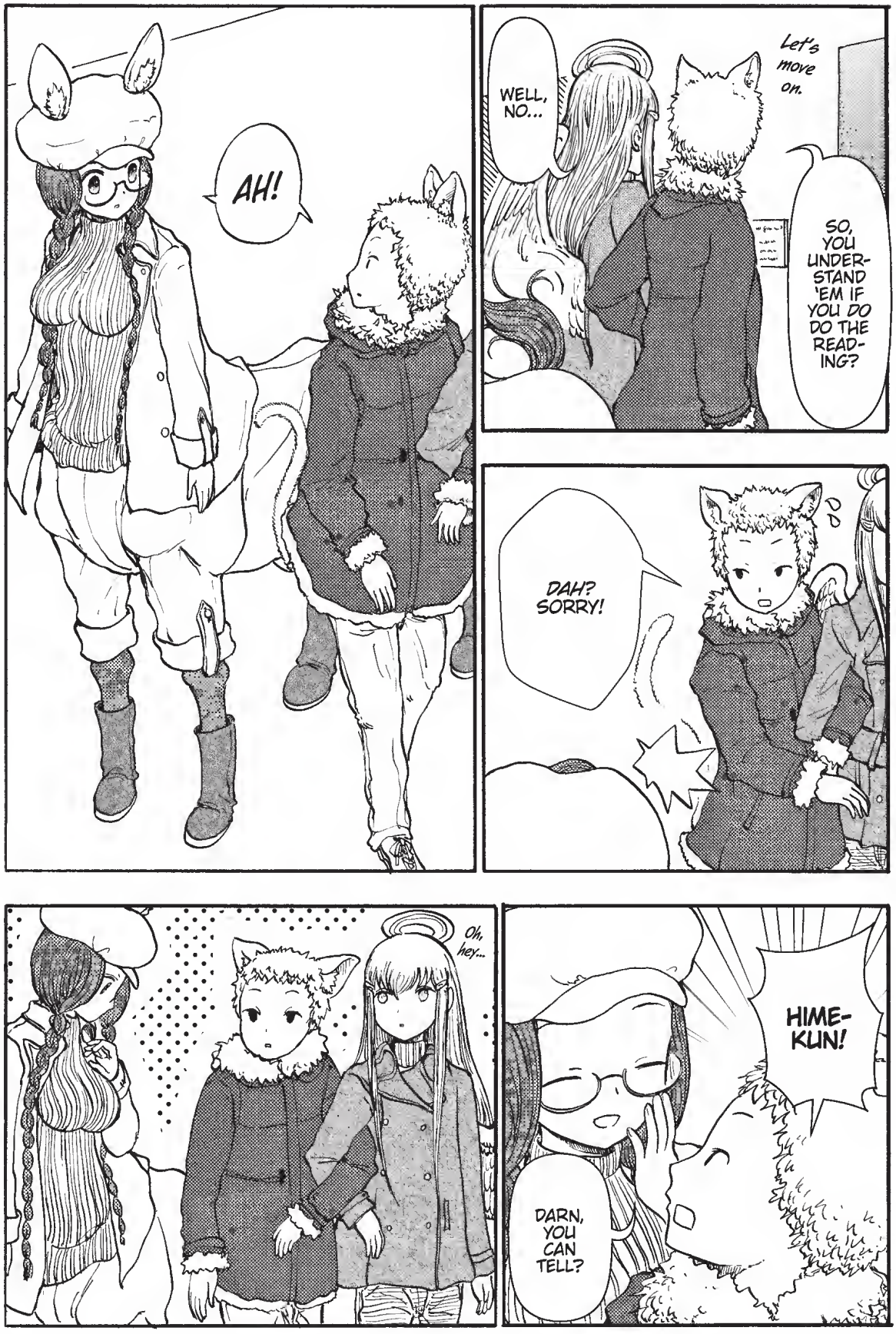

Kanata City New Muse

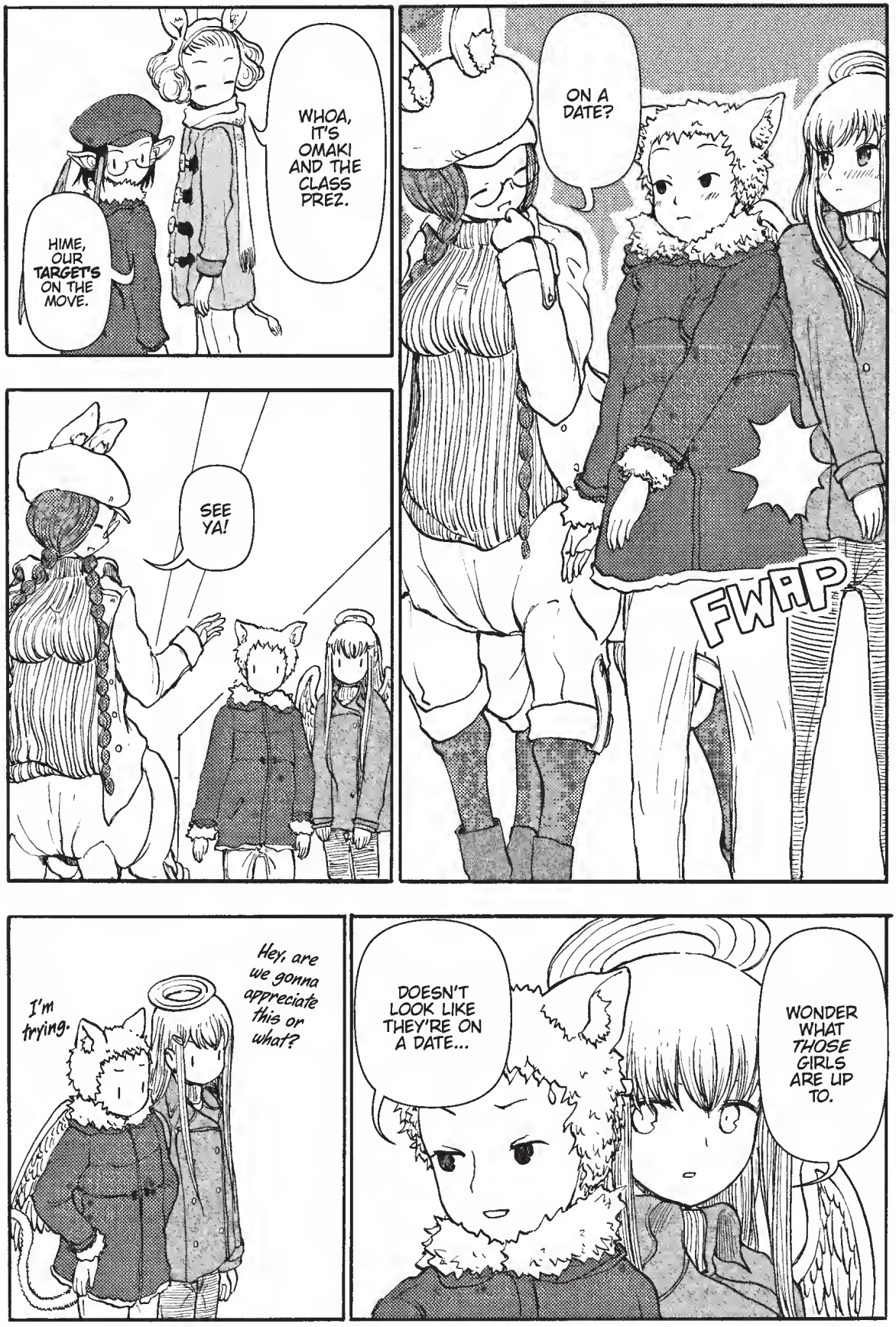


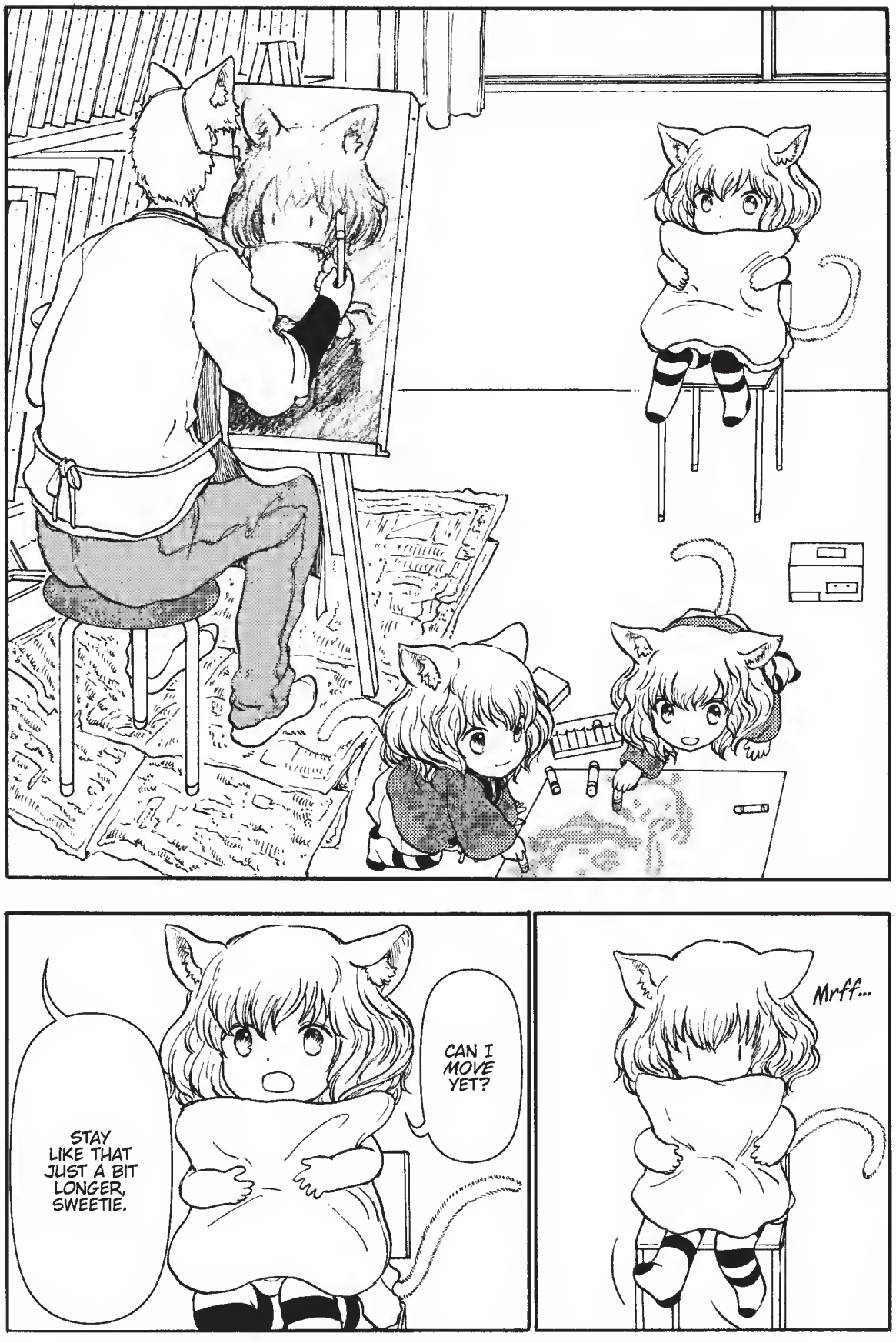

Children
Adults
Students
Military
Senior

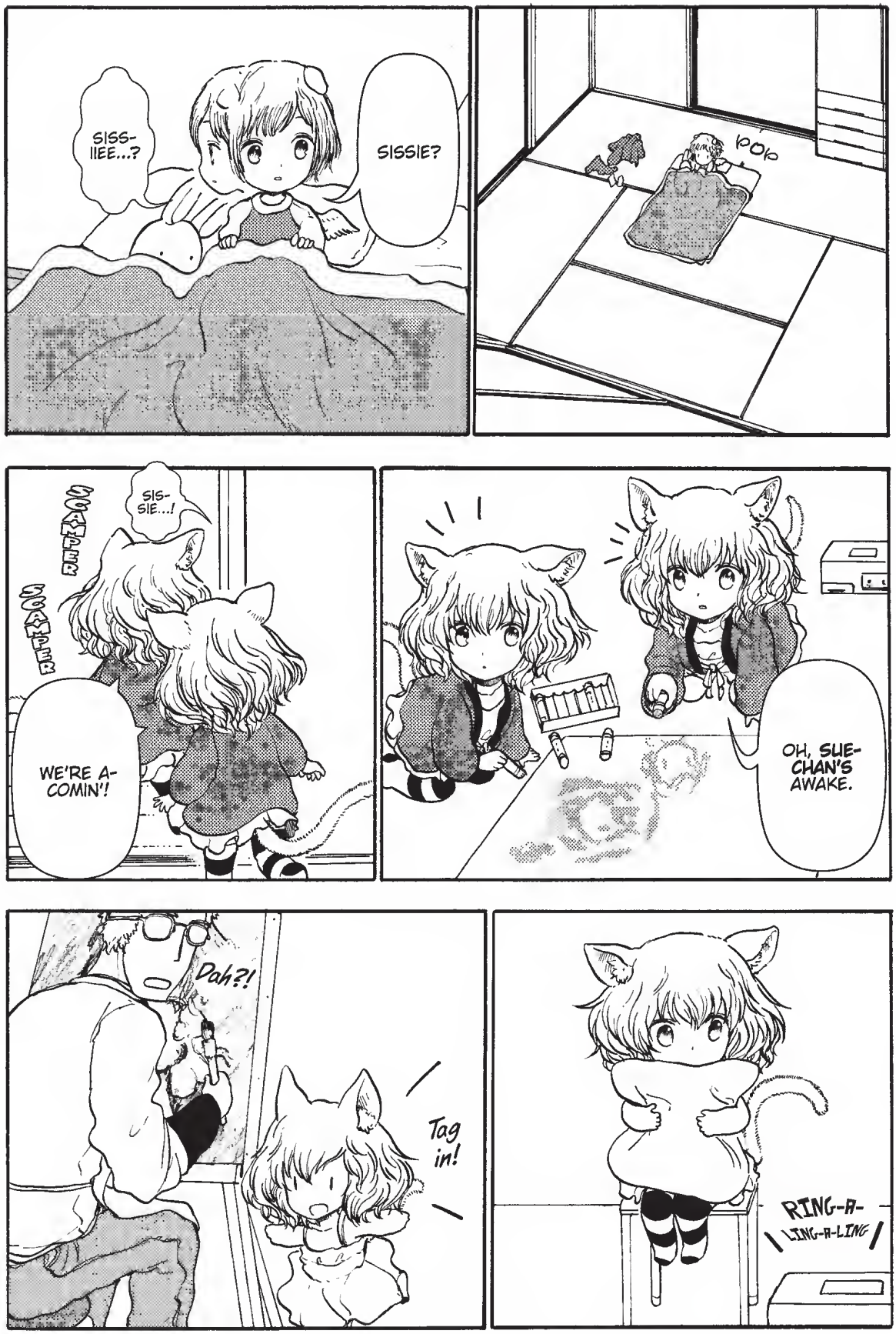

WITH STUFF LIKE THIS, YOU SPEND MORE TIME READING THE ANALYSIS THAN LOOKING AT THE ACTUAL PIECE.
OTHERWISE YOU WON'T UNDERSTAND THEM.




AH!
WELL, NO...
Let's move on.
SO, YOU UNDER-STAND 'EM IF YOU DO DO THE READ-ING?
DAH? SORRY!
Oh, hey...
HIME-KUN!
DARN, YOU CAN TELL?

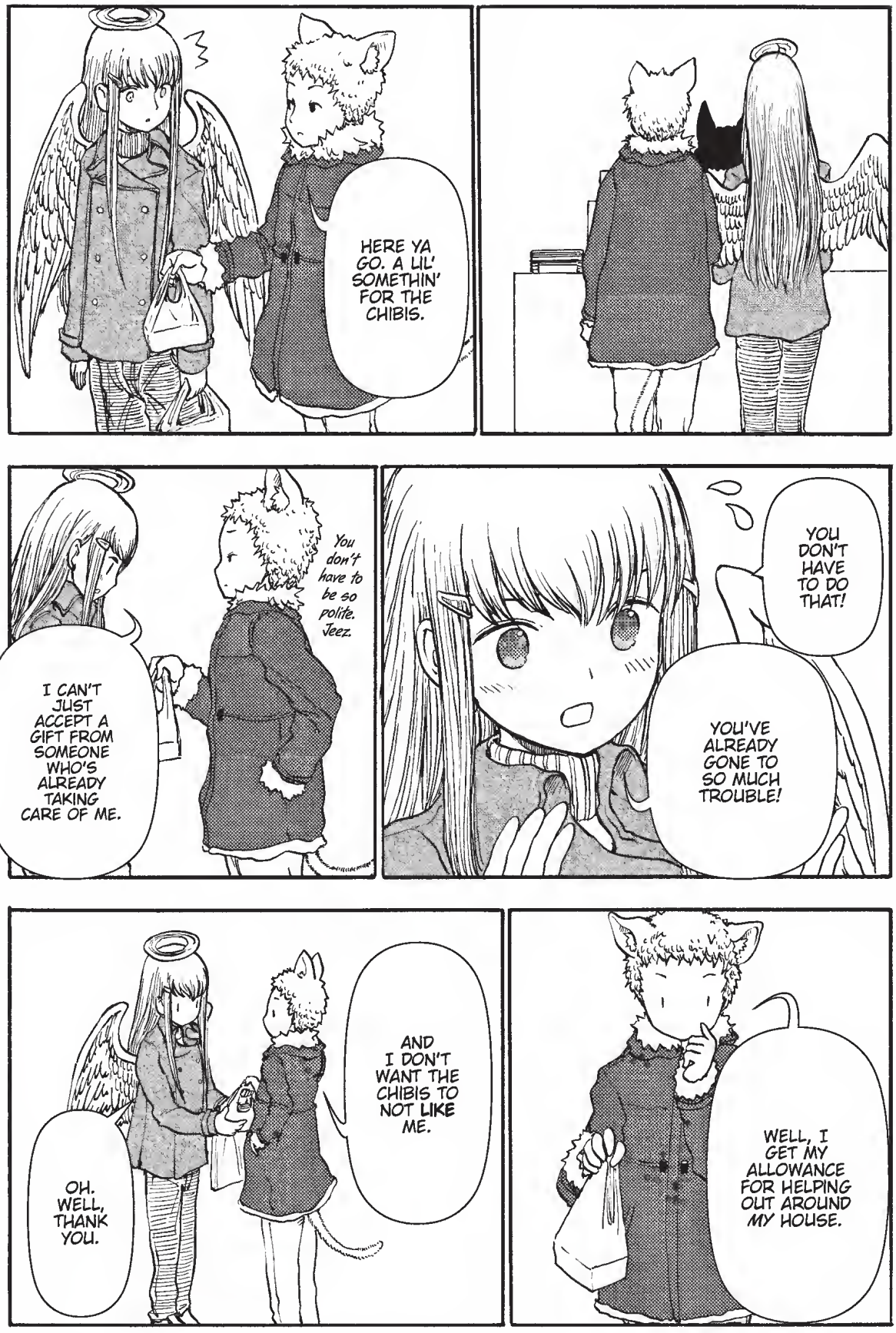

WHOA, IT'S OMAKI AND THE CLASS PREZ.
HIME, OUR TARGET'S ON THE MOVE.
ON A DATE?
FWAP
SEE YA!
WONDER WHAT THOSE GIRLS ARE UP TO.
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THEY'RE ON A DATE...
Hey, are we gonna appreciate this or what?
I'm trying.

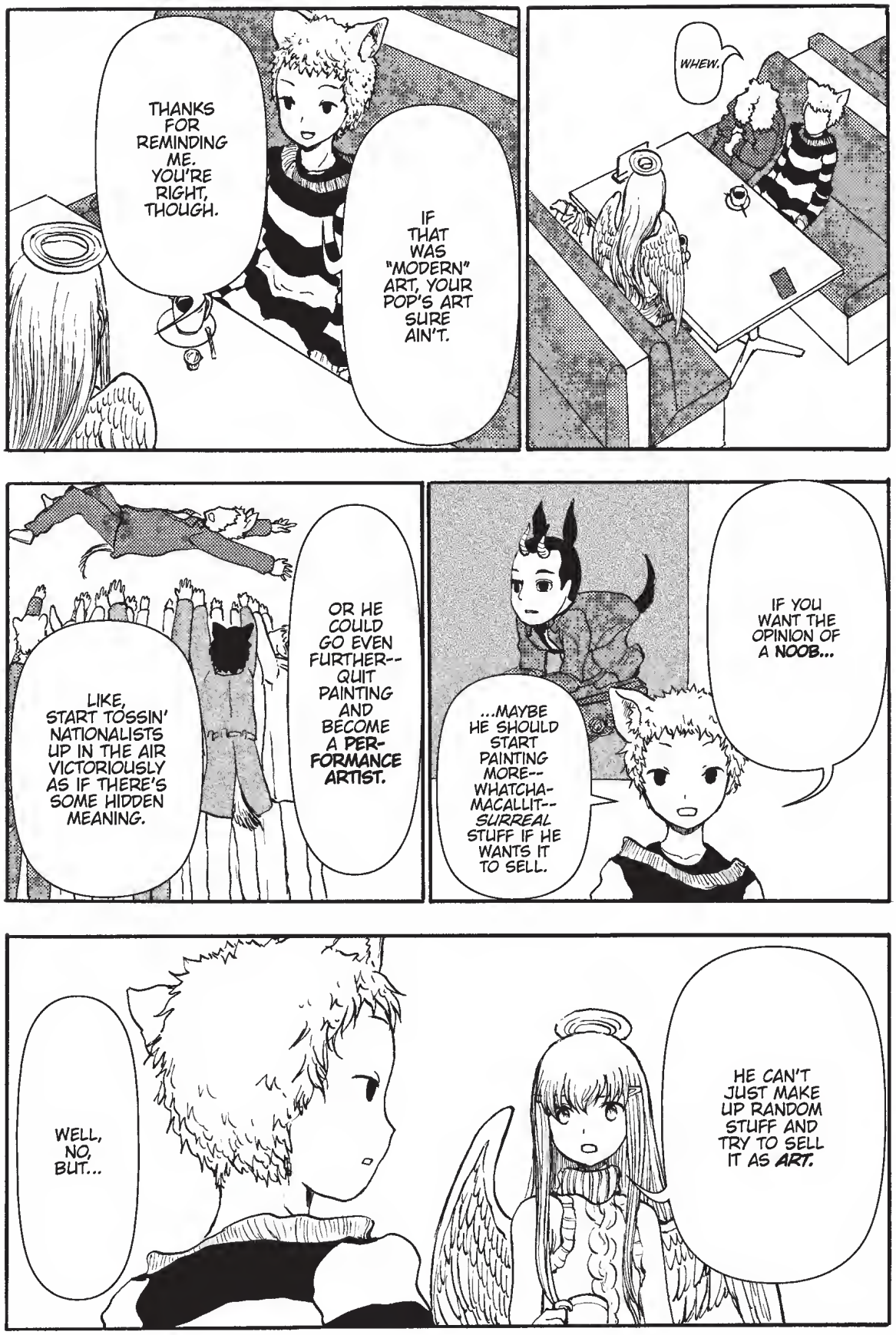

CAN I MOVE YET?
STAY LIKE THAT JUST A BIT LONGER, SWEETIE.
Mrff...

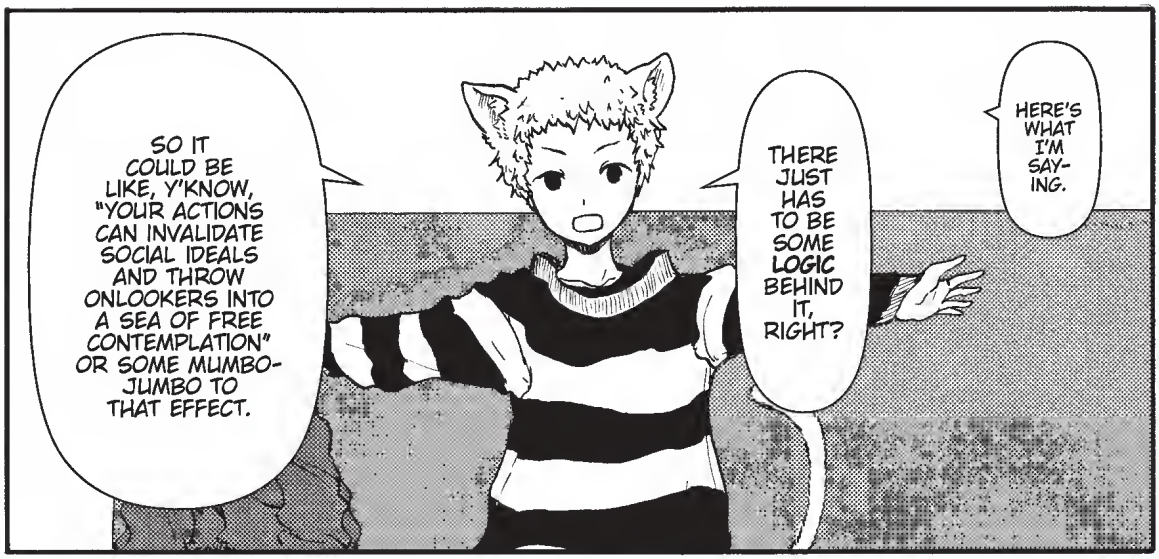

SISS-IIEE...?
SISSIE?
POP
SCAMPER SCAMPER
SIS-SIE...!
WE'RE A-COMIN'!
OH, SUE-CHAN'S AWAKE.
Dah?!
Tag in!
RING-A-LING-A-LING

Not good for the kids, either.
THIS WOULD PROBABLY BE A GOOD TIME FOR A SMOKE, BUT I DON'T SMOKE.
Siiigh...
Manami's probably stronger than me, anyway...
CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE TAKING IT OUT ON THE KIDS...
AND I DON'T DRINK. NOT INTERESTED IN GAMBLING EITHER...
THERE'S NO WAY OUT.
I'VE GOT NO PROSPECTS FOR SELLING THESE PAINTINGS, BUT I CAN'T JUST STOP, EITHER...

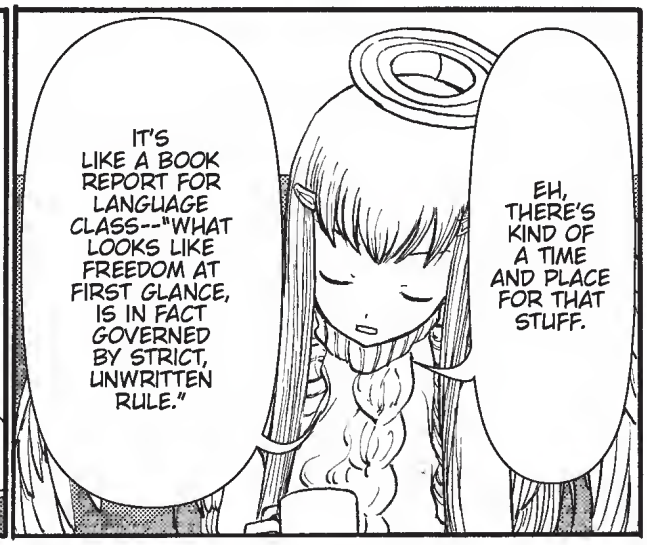
Modern Art Exhibit
Sample copy
Museum Shop
I WON'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING WE LOOKED AT IF I DON'T GET A LITTLE MORE OF AN EXPLANATION.
GONNA BUY THAT?
OOH, EXPENSIVE. BUT...
It's gotta have six pieces, though...
Belgian Chacalate
■■■円
HEY, THEY'RE SELLING CANDY AND STUFF TOO.

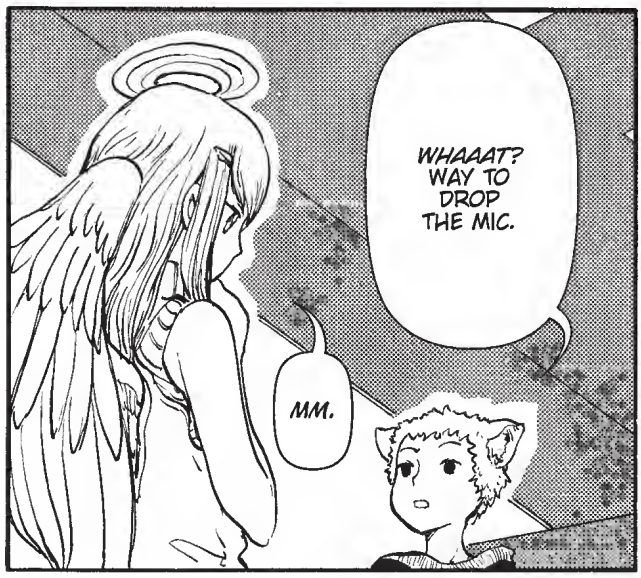

HERE YA GO. A LIL' SOMETHIN' FOR THE CHIBIS.
You don't have to be so polite. Jeez.
I CAN'T JUST ACCEPT A GIFT FROM SOMEONE WHO'S ALREADY TAKING CARE OF ME.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THAT!
YOU'VE ALREADY GONE TO SO MUCH TROUBLE!
AND I DON'T WANT THE CHIBIS TO NOT LIKE ME.
OH. WELL, THANK YOU.
WELL, I GET MY ALLOWANCE FOR HELPING OUT AROUND MY HOUSE.


THANKS FOR REMINDING ME. YOU'RE RIGHT, THOUGH.
IF THAT WAS "MODERN" ART, YOUR POP'S ART SURE AIN'T.
WHEW.
LIKE, START TOSSIN' NATIONALISTS UP IN THE AIR VICTORIOUSLY AS IF THERE'S SOME HIDDEN MEANING.
OR HE COULD GO EVEN FURTHER-- QUIT PAINTING AND BECOME A **PER-FORMANCE ARTIST.**
...MAYBE HE SHOULD START PAINTING MORE-- WHATCHA-MACALLIT-- *SURREAL* STUFF IF HE WANTS IT TO SELL.
IF YOU WANT THE OPINION OF A **NOOB...**
WELL, NO, BUT...
HE CAN'T JUST MAKE UP RANDOM STUFF AND TRY TO SELL IT AS ***ART.***

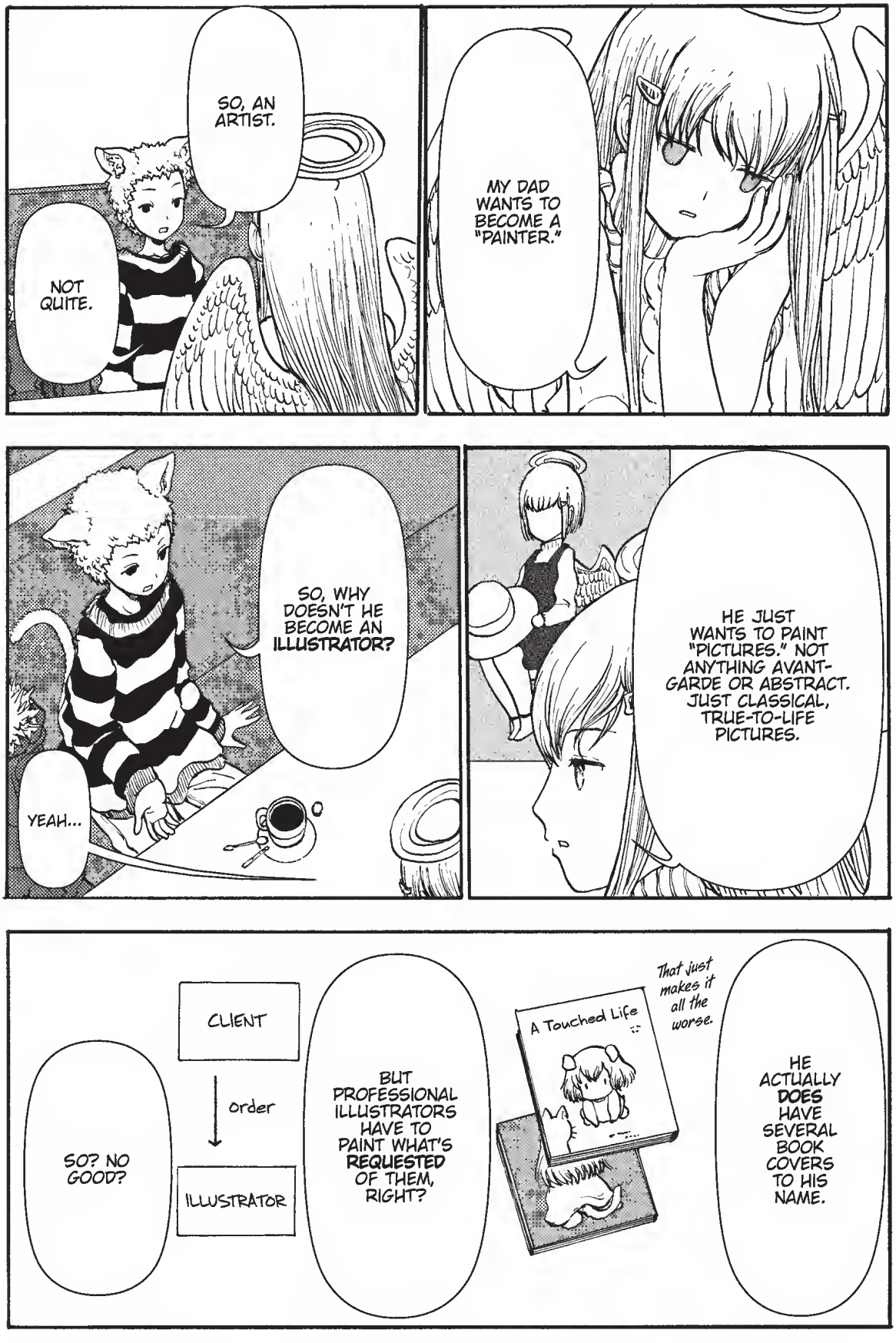

HERE'S WHAT I'M SAY-ING.
THERE JUST HAS TO BE SOME LOGIC BEHIND IT, RIGHT?
SO IT COULD BE LIKE, Y'KNOW, "YOUR ACTIONS CAN INVALIDATE SOCIAL IDEALS AND THROW ONLOOKERS INTO A SEA OF FREE CONTEMPLATION" OR SOME MUMBO-JUMBO TO THAT EFFECT.

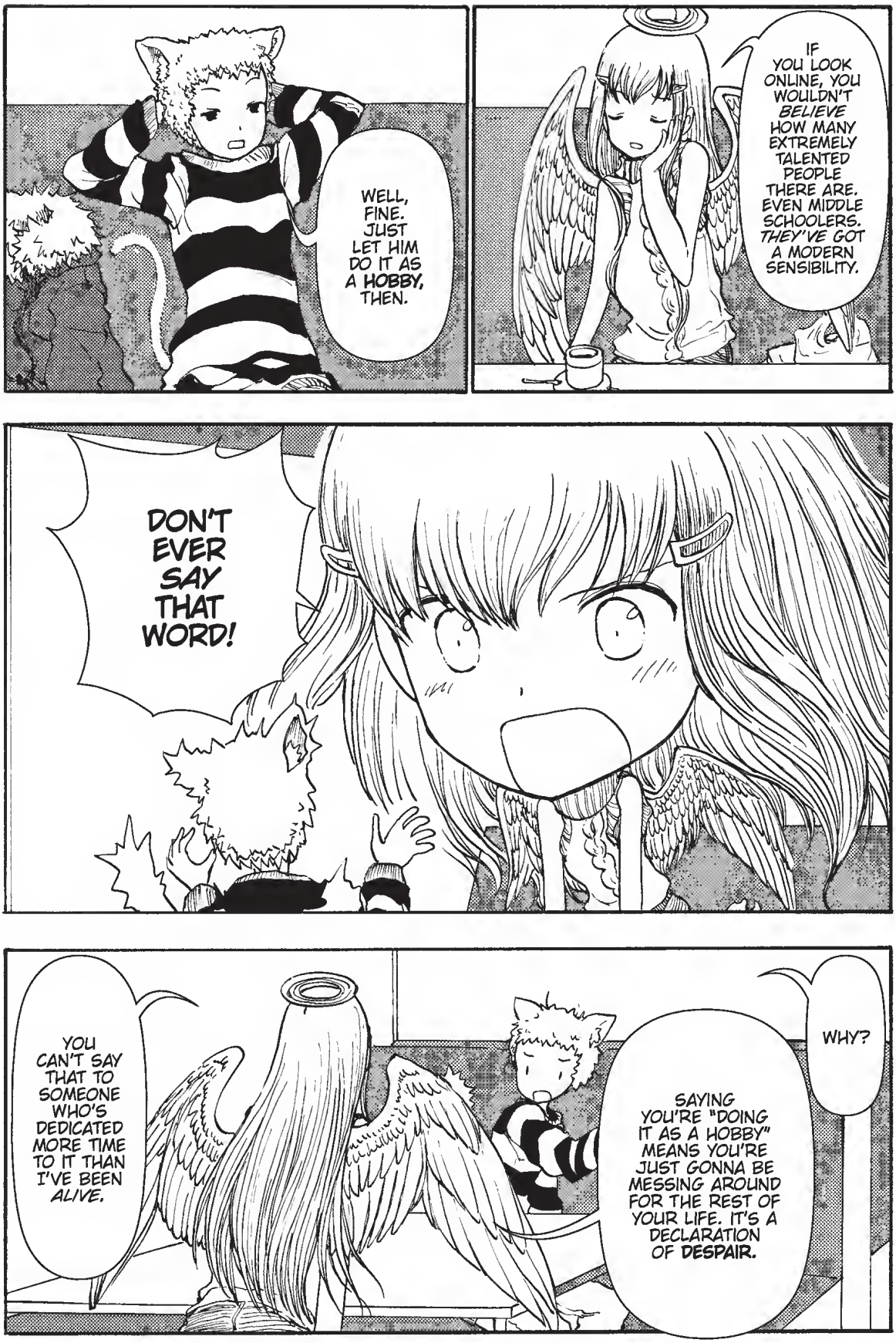
NOW YOU'RE GETTIN' A LITTLE OVER MY HEAD.
MINE TOO.

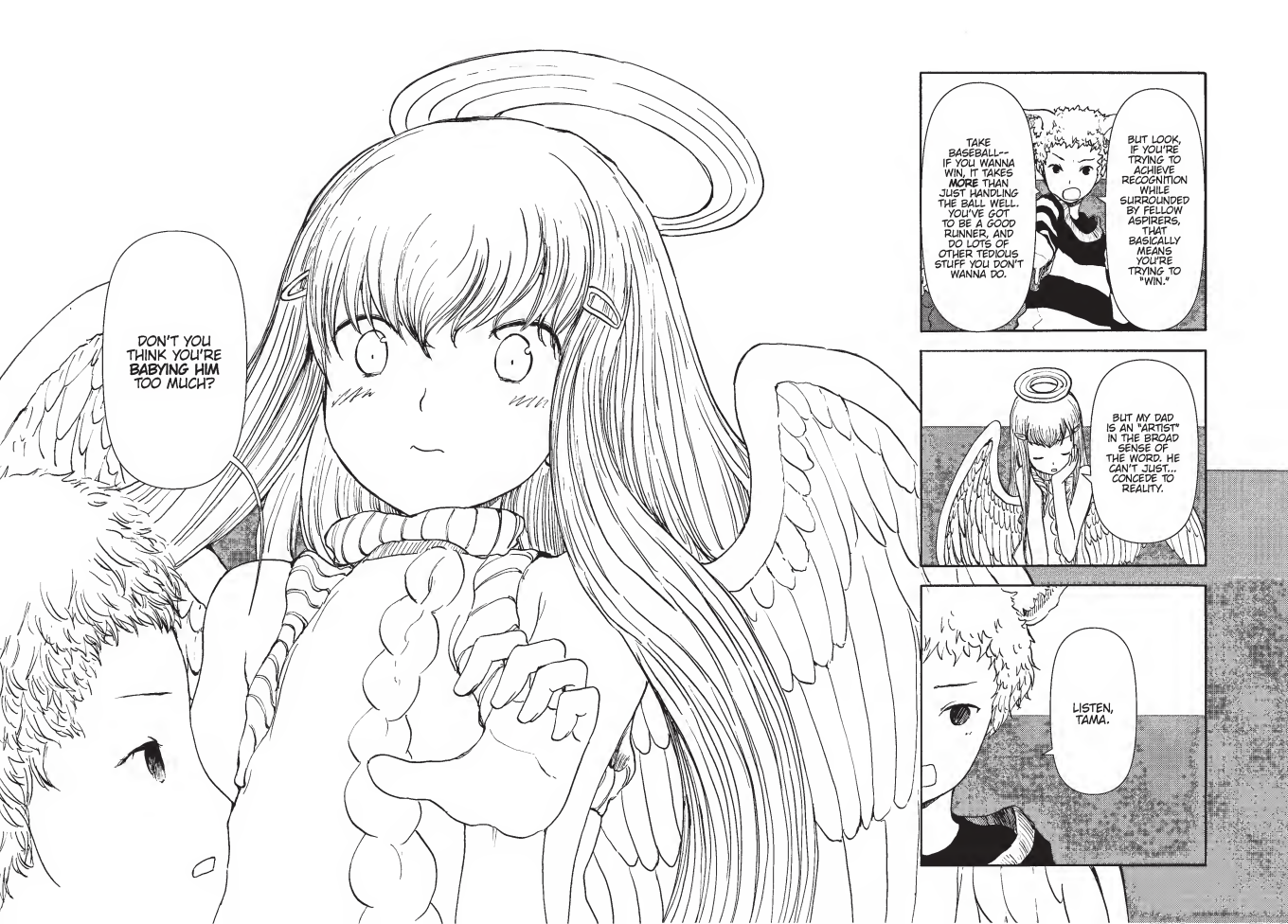

EH, THERE'S KIND OF A TIME AND PLACE FOR THAT STUFF.
IT'S LIKE A BOOK REPORT FOR LANGUAGE CLASS--"WHAT LOOKS LIKE FREEDOM AT FIRST GLANCE, IS IN FACT GOVERNED BY STRICT, UNWRITTEN RULE."


WHAAAAT? WAY TO DROP THE MIC.
MM.

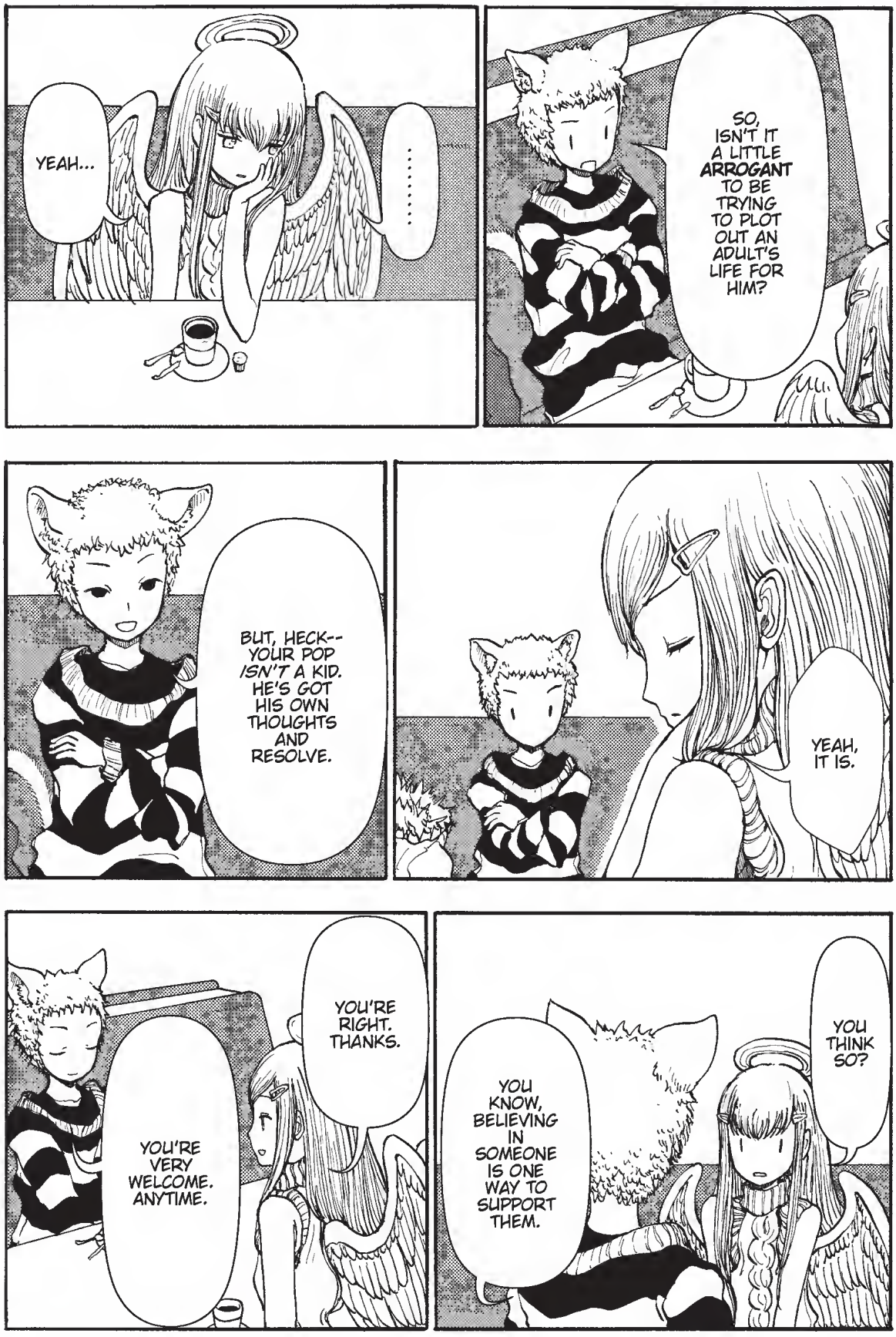
HONESTLY, IF YOU ASKED IF MY DAD EVEN WANTS TO BECOME AN ARTIST...
...I GET THE FEEL-ING THE ANSWER IS NO.


SO, AN ARTIST.
NOT QUITE.
MY DAD WANTS TO BECOME A "PAINTER."
SO, WHY DOESN'T HE BECOME AN ILLUSTRATOR?
YEAH...
HE JUST WANTS TO PAINT "PICTURES." NOT ANYTHING AVANT-GARDE OR ABSTRACT. JUST CLASSICAL, TRUE-TO-LIFE PICTURES.
SO? NO GOOD?
CLIENT
order
ILLUSTRATOR
BUT PROFESSIONAL ILLUSTRATORS HAVE TO PAINT WHAT'S REQUESTED OF THEM, RIGHT?
A Touched Life
That just makes it all the worse.
HE ACTUALLY DOES HAVE SEVERAL BOOK COVERS TO HIS NAME.


WELL, FINE. JUST LET HIM DO IT AS A HOBBY, THEN.
IF YOU LOOK ONLINE, YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE HOW MANY EXTREMELY TALENTED PEOPLE THERE ARE. EVEN MIDDLE SCHOOLERS. THEY'VE GOT A MODERN SENSIBILITY.
DON'T EVER SAY THAT WORD!
WHY?
SAYING YOU'RE "DOING IT AS A HOBBY" MEANS YOU'RE JUST GONNA BE MESSING AROUND FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE. IT'S A DECLARATION OF DESPAIR.
YOU CAN'T SAY THAT TO SOMEONE WHO'S DEDICATED MORE TIME TO IT THAN I'VE BEEN ALIVE.


DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE BABYING HIM TOO MUCH?
TAKE BASEBALL-- IF YOU WANNA WIN, IT TAKES MORE THAN JUST HANDLING THE BALL WELL. YOU'VE GOT TO BE A GOOD RUNNER, AND DO LOTS OF OTHER TEDIOUS STUFF YOU DON'T WANNA DO.
BUT LOOK, IF YOU'RE TRYING TO ACHIEVE RECOGNITION WHILE SURROUNDED BY FELLOW ASPIRERS, THAT BASICALLY MEANS YOU'RE TRYING TO "WIN."
BUT MY DAD IS AN "ARTIST" IN THE BROAD SENSE OF THE WORD. HE CAN'T JUST... CONCEDE TO REALITY.
LISTEN, TAMA.

N...NO, I'M NOT.
My middle school nickname...
REMEMBER HOW OUR HOME EC TEACHER USED TO SHOW YOU OFF? "THIS ONE COULD BECOME A HOUSEWIFE *TOMORROW!*"
EASY FOR "SUPERGIRL" TO SAY.
WE HAVEN'T EVEN **GONE OUT** INTO THE WORLD YET. WE DON'T **KNOW** IF WE'LL EVER AMOUNT TO ANYTHING.
BUT YOU'RE STILL JUST A KID, JUST LIKE ME.


YEAH...
.....
SO, ISN'T IT A LITTLE ARROGANT TO BE TRYING TO PLOT OUT AN ADULT'S LIFE FOR HIM?
BUT, HECK-- YOUR POP ISN'T A KID. HE'S GOT HIS OWN THOUGHTS AND RESOLVE.
YEAH, IT IS.
YOU'RE RIGHT. THANKS.
YOU'RE VERY WELCOME. ANYTIME.
YOU KNOW, BELIEVING IN SOMEONE IS ONE WAY TO SUPPORT THEM.
YOU THINK SO?

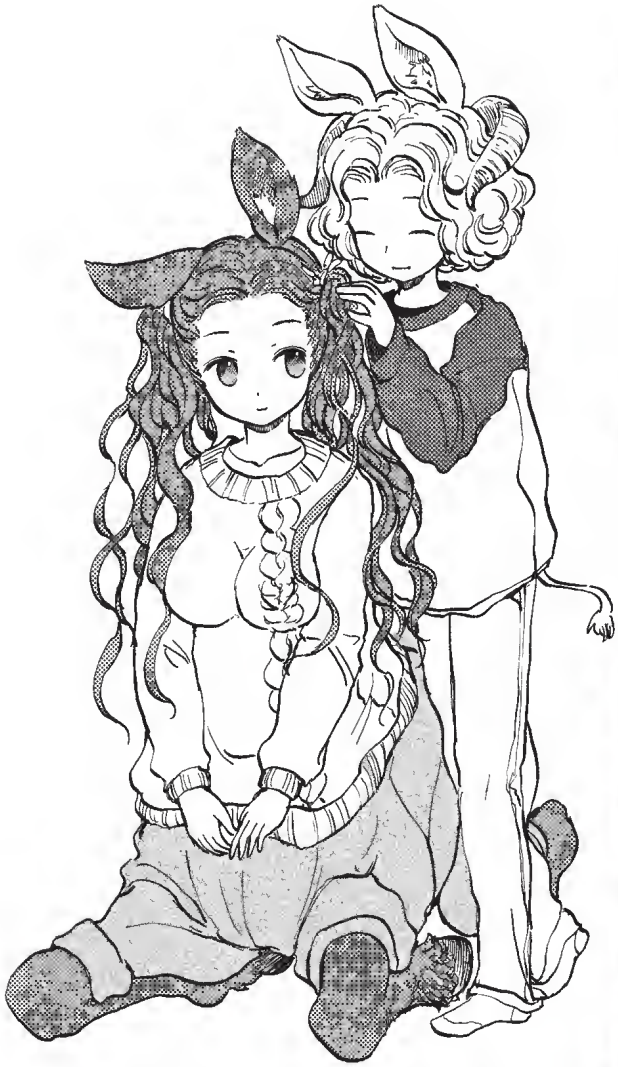
SHALL WE HAVE DINNER?
Souv-neers!
I'M HOME.
HERE YA GO. SOUVE-NIRS.
From Big Sister Koma-chan.
WELCOME BAAACK!
SCAMPER
SCAMPER
'KAY. HMM, BUT MAYBE I'D BETTER SKIP--
Zzz...
DAD, TIME FOR DINNER.
THIS EFFORT MIGHT ALL BE FOR NAUGHT IN THE END, AND IT WON'T DO ANY GOOD IF HE MAKES HIMSELF SICK.
Looks like a good painting to the untrained eye, though.
DON'T OVERDO IT.

A CentaUr's Life

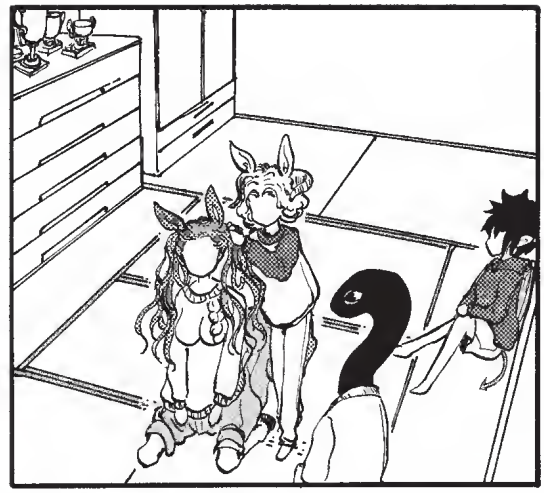
TRADITIONAL DRESS FROM AROUND THE WORLD (MONGOLIA)

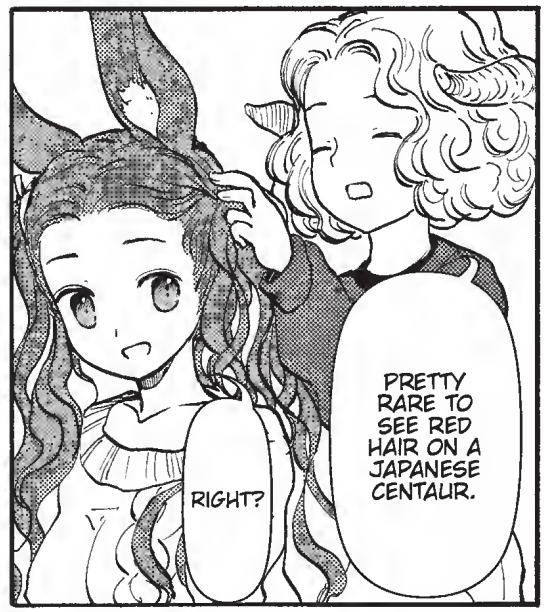
AT THE *NAADAM* FESTIVAL HELD THROUGHOUT THE NATION OF MONGOLIA, THREE GAMES ARE TRADITIONALLY HELD: WRESTLING, HORSE RACING, AND ARCHERY. ALL THREE SERVED AS DRIVING FORCES BEHIND THE RISE OF THE UNPRECEDENTED MONGOLIAN EMPIRE ESTABLISHED BY THE LEGENDARY CONQUEROR GENGHIS KHAN. THE NEIGHBORING RED, CLASS-BASED NATION, LONG HELD AT THE MERCY OF THE MONGOLS, WOULD EVENTUALLY DECLARE MONGOLIA A SATELLITE NATION, BOLDLY IMPOSING UPON THE LAND'S TRADITIONS IN AN ATTEMPT TO CUT THEM OFF FROM THEIR PAST. MONGOLS WERE FORBIDDEN FROM LEARNING THEIR OWN HISTORY OR PAYING REVERENCE TO THEIR HISTORICAL HEROES. HOWEVER, INEVITABLE SOCIAL UPHEAVAL LED TO THE COLLAPSE OF THE CLASS-BASED SOCIETY, AND THE MONGOLIAN PEOPLE AND THEIR HISTORY WERE REVIVED.

THUS, THE BEAUTIFUL FORM OF THE MONGOLIAN ARCHER ADORNED IN TRADITIONAL GARB, SKILLFULLY LETTING LOOSE AN ARROW, IS A SIGHT STILL SEEN TODAY.

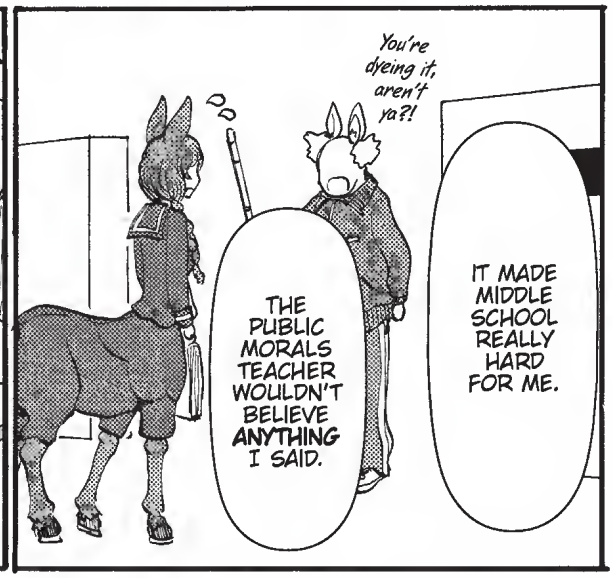


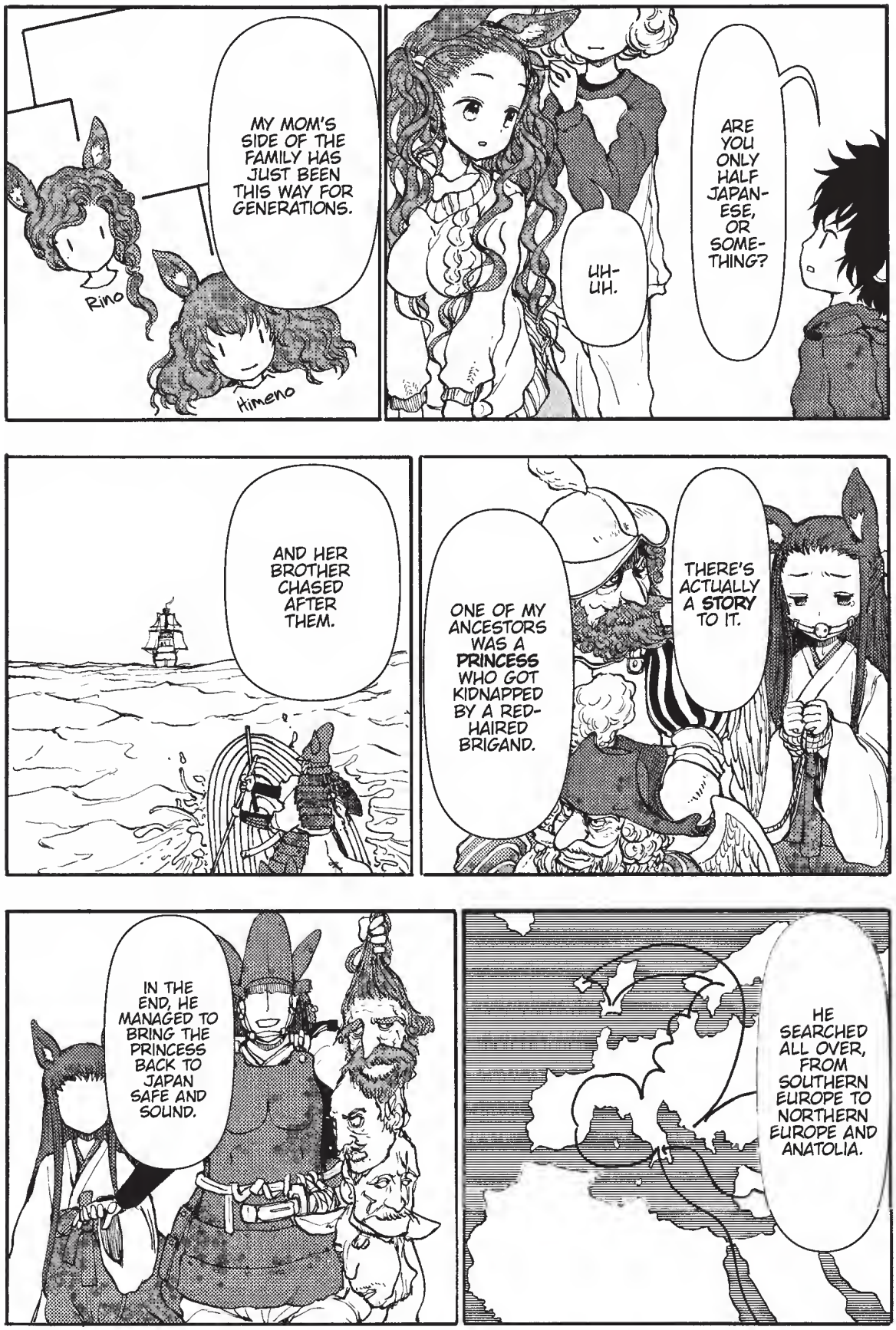
CHAPTER 47

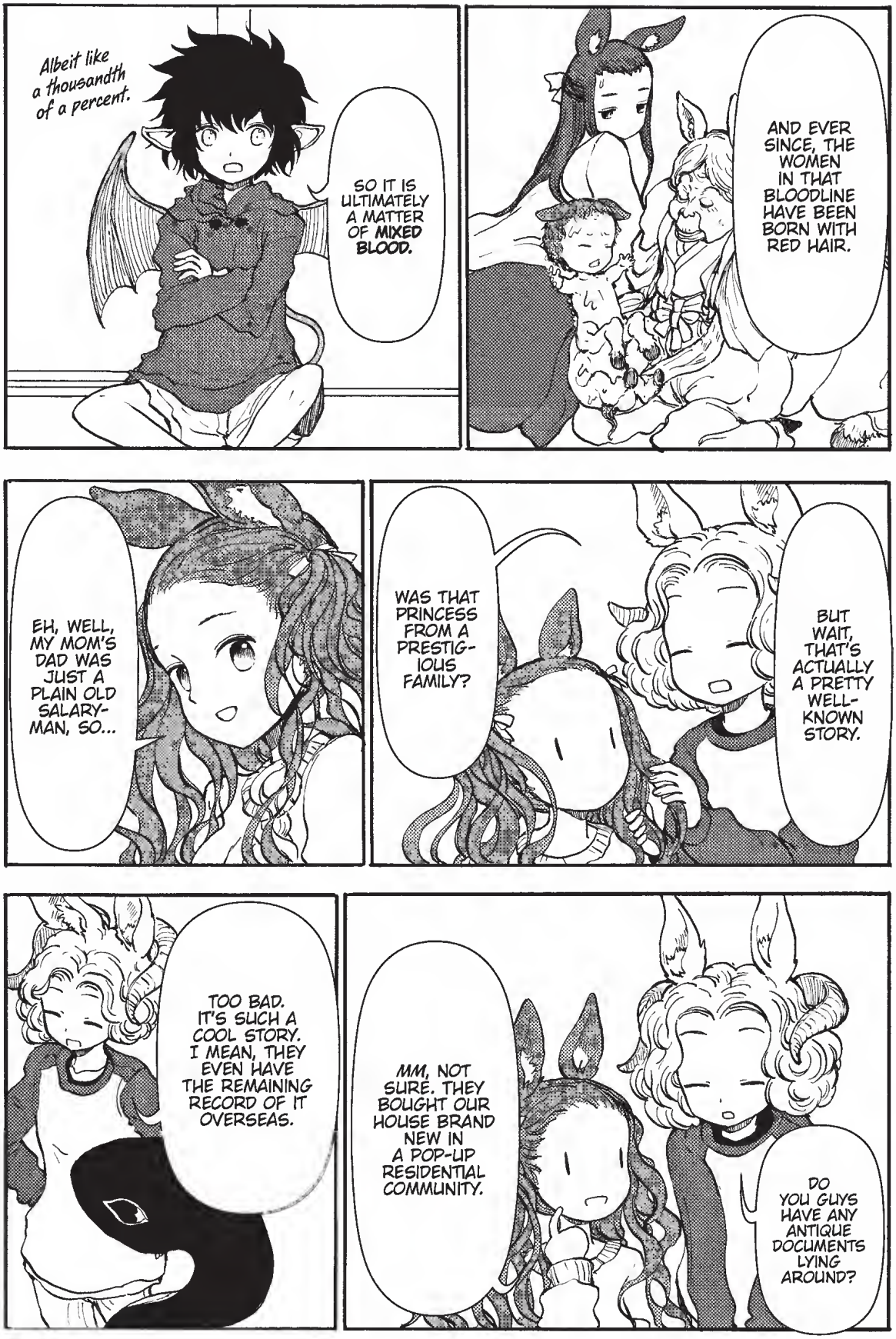


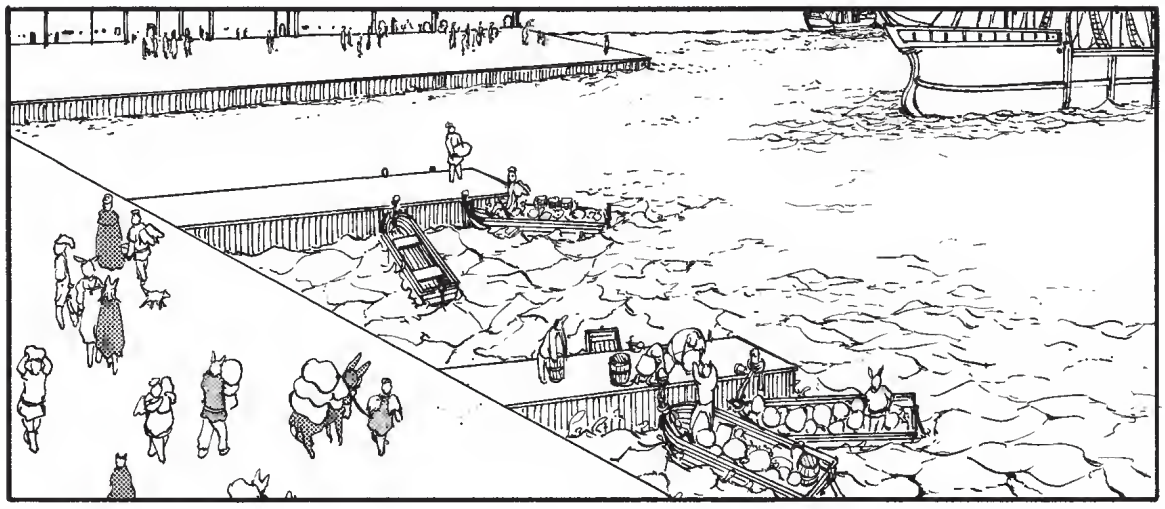

PRETTY RARE TO SEE RED HAIR ON A JAPANESE CENTAUR.
RIGHT?

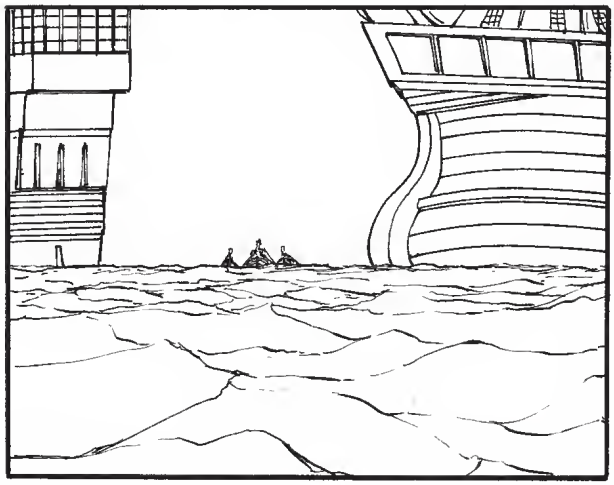
ISN'T THAT RACIST?
YUP. HE ENDED UP GETTING BUSTED.

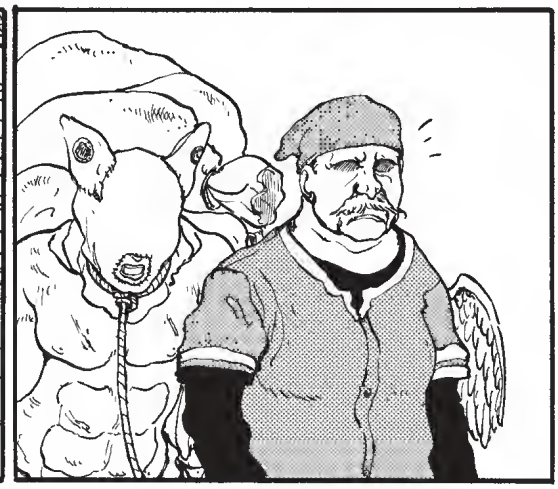

IT MADE MIDDLE SCHOOL REALLY HARD FOR ME.
THE PUBLIC MORALS TEACHER WOULDN'T BELIEVE ANYTHING I SAID.
You're dyeing it, aren't ya?!

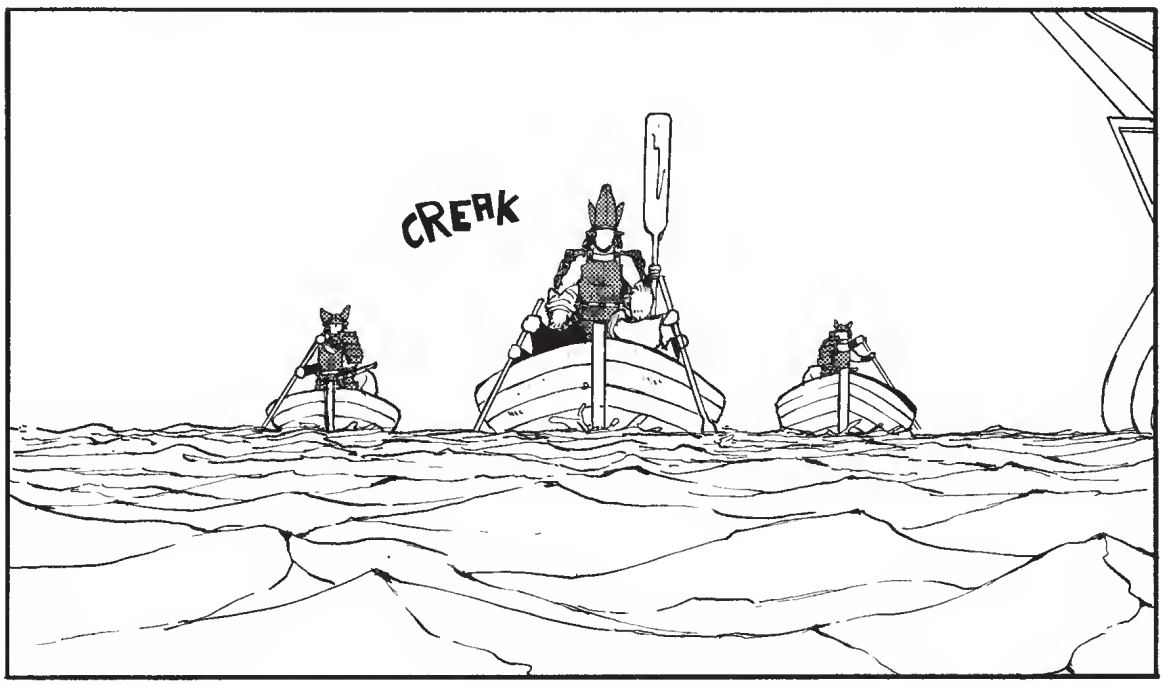

MY MOM'S SIDE OF THE FAMILY HAS JUST BEEN THIS WAY FOR GENERATIONS.
Rino
Himeno
ARE YOU ONLY HALF JAPAN-ESE, OR SOME-THING?
UH-UH.
AND HER BROTHER CHASED AFTER THEM.
THERE'S ACTUALLY A STORY TO IT.
ONE OF MY ANCESTORS WAS A PRINCESS WHO GOT KIDNAPPED BY A RED-HAIRED BRIGAND.
IN THE END, HE MANAGED TO BRING THE PRINCESS BACK TO JAPAN SAFE AND SOUND.
HE SEARCHED ALL OVER, FROM SOUTHERN EUROPE TO NORTHERN EUROPE AND ANATOLIA.


Albeit like a thousandth of a percent.
SO IT IS ULTIMATELY A MATTER OF MIXED BLOOD.
AND EVER SINCE, THE WOMEN IN THAT BLOODLINE HAVE BEEN BORN WITH RED HAIR.
EH, WELL, MY MOM'S DAD WAS JUST A PLAIN OLD SALARY-MAN, SO...
WAS THAT PRINCESS FROM A PRESTIG-IOUS FAMILY?
BUT WAIT, THAT'S ACTUALLY A PRETTY WELL-KNOWN STORY.
TOO BAD. IT'S SUCH A COOL STORY. I MEAN, THEY EVEN HAVE THE REMAINING RECORD OF IT OVERSEAS.
MM, NOT SURE. THEY BOUGHT OUR HOUSE BRAND NEW IN A POP-UP RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY.
DO YOU GUYS HAVE ANY ANTIQUE DOCUMENTS LYING AROUND?







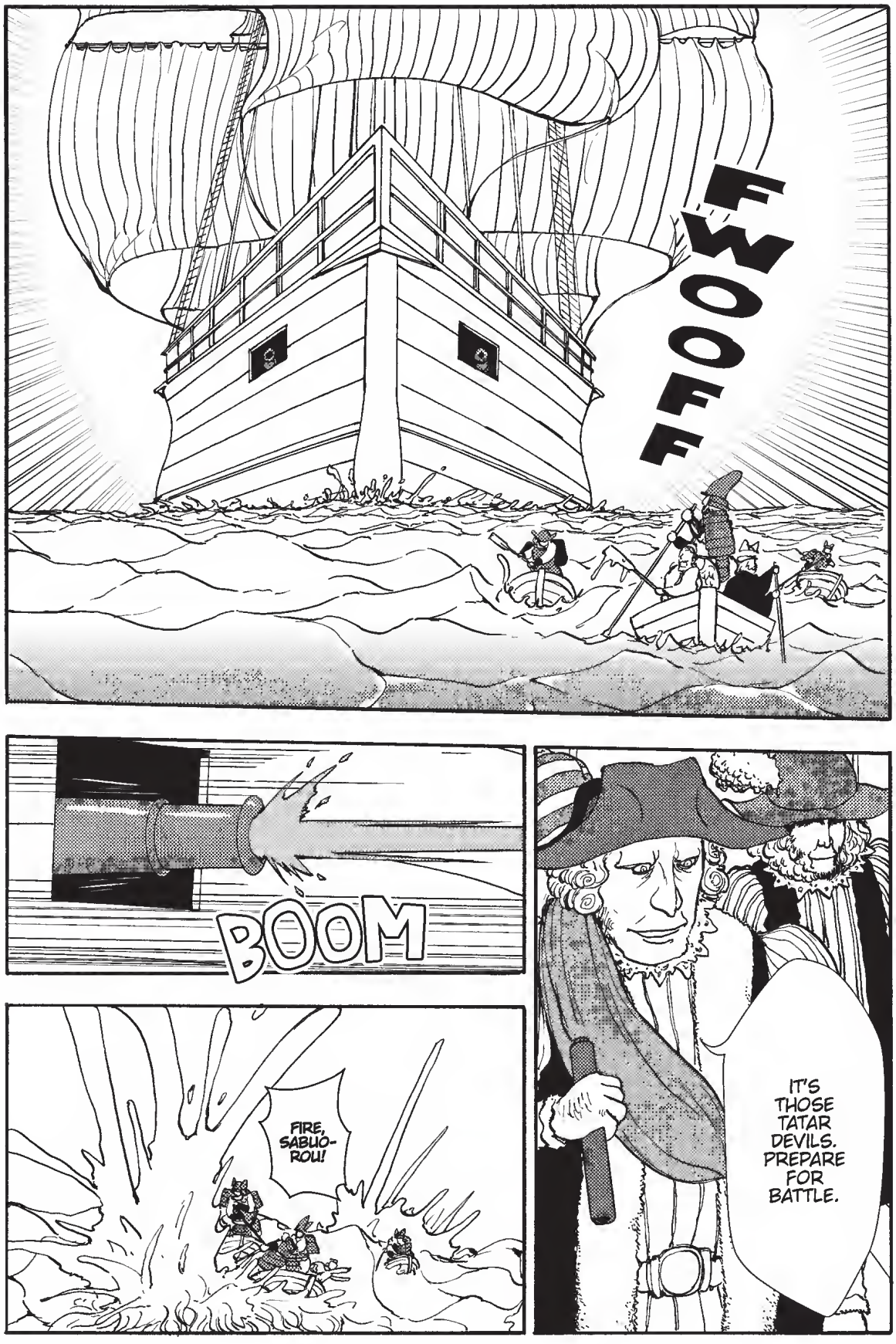

CREAK

SO THIS IS THE SLAVE CITY.
What in god's name?

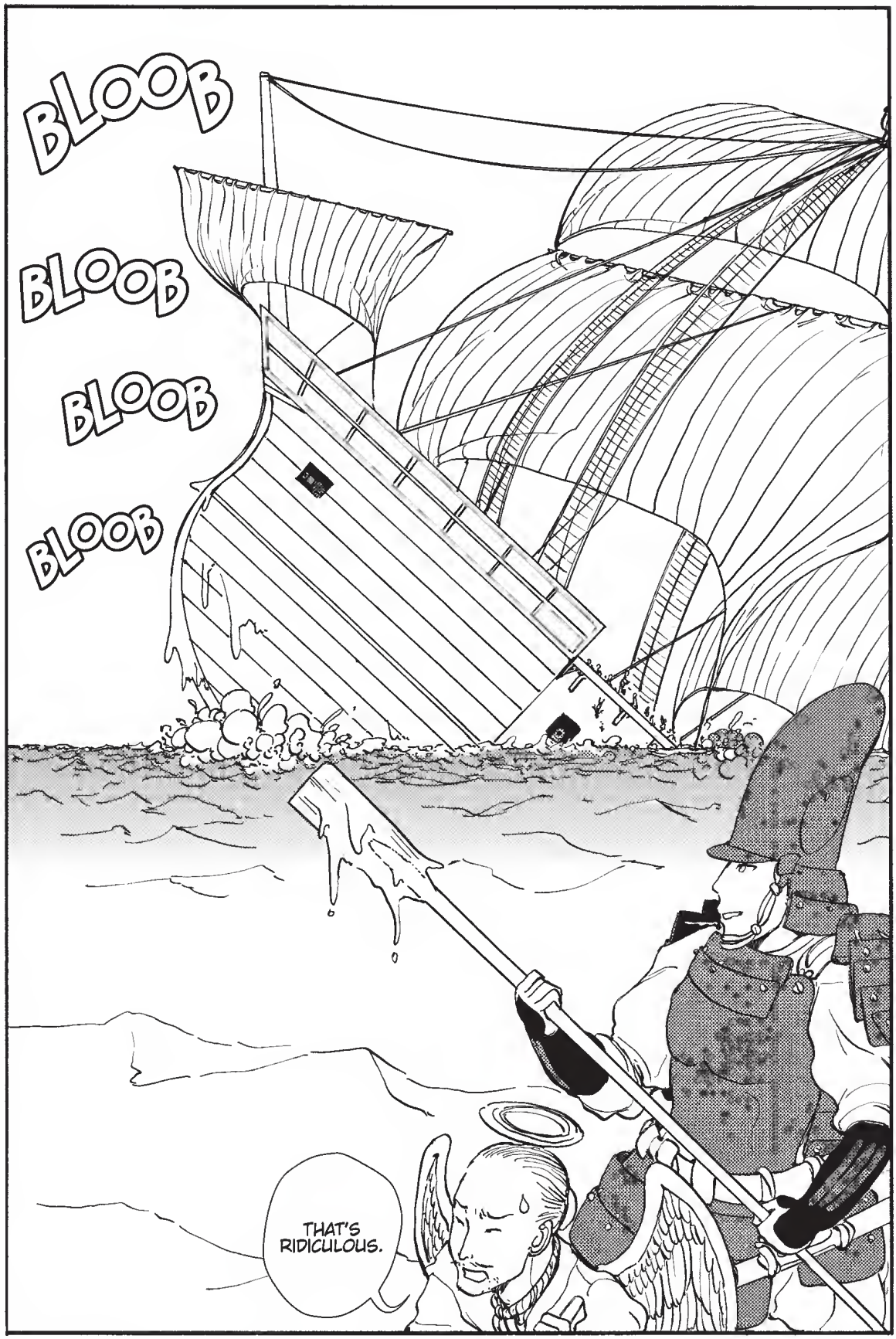
WHAT'S ALL THIS, THEN? THE LIVESTOCK IS TRYIN' TO BUY PEOPLE, IS THEY?
'EY! WHERE D'YA THINK YER GOIN'?!
KI-SHINK
EEEEK!!
FIEND!
INSOLENT SWINE!

WAAAH?!
ILL-MANNERED BRUTES!
YOU FILTHY ANIMALS!
IT WOULD SEEM OUR SISTER IS NOT HERE.
THWOK
SHWICK

YOU. DO YOU KNOW WHERE THE CORONDE REEF TOOK PORT?
I SEE.
SHWICK
HE DOESN'T KNOW.
AND LIKE THAT, THEY WENT AROUND ATTACKING ONE PLACE AFTER ANOTHER.
TO THE NEXT ONE.

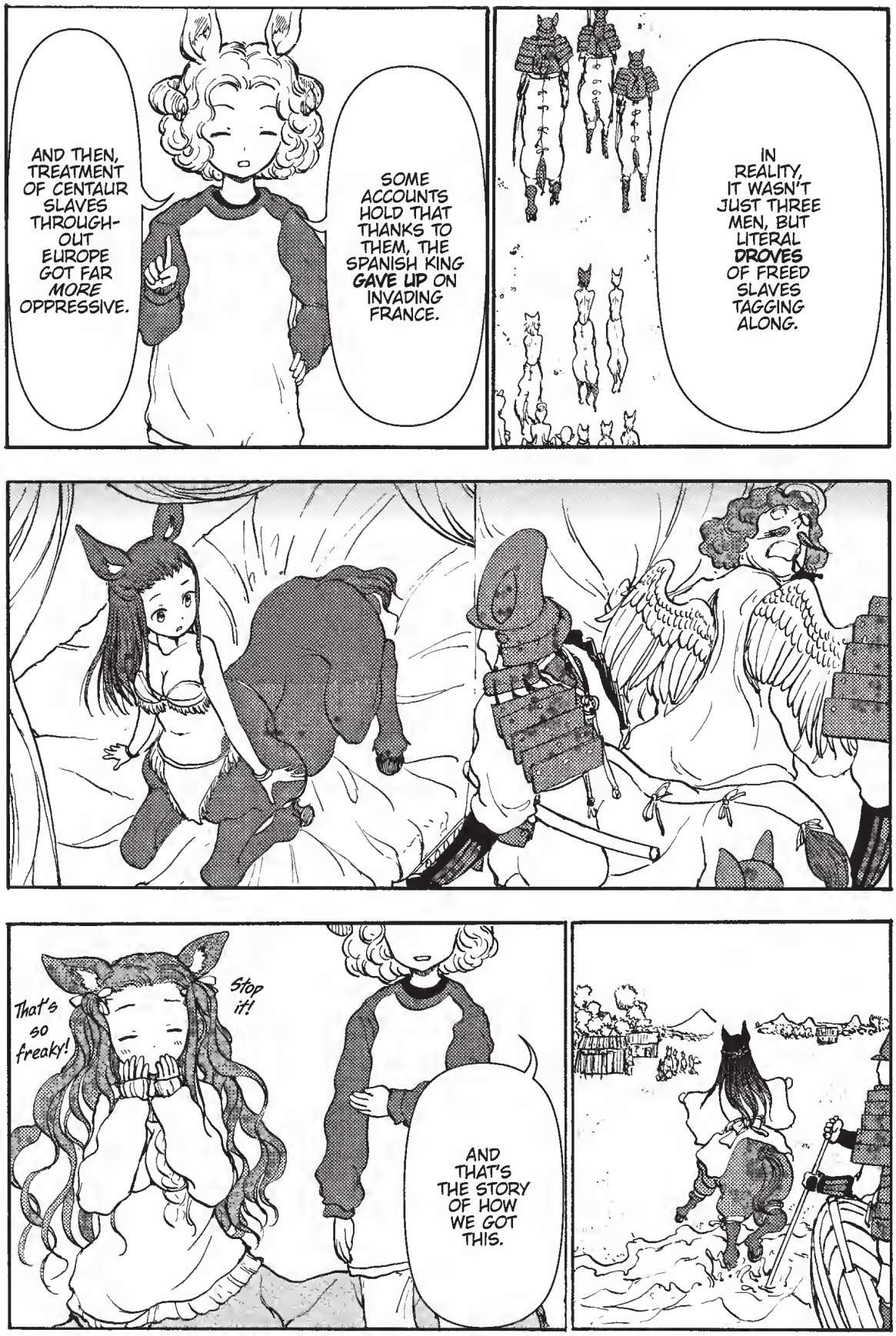

FWOOFF
BOOM
FIRE, SABUŌ-ROU!
IT'S THOSE TATAR DEVILS. PREPARE FOR BATTLE.

FWEEEEE
THOP
KREEEAK
NAMU HACHIMAN DAIBO-SATSU!!
LURCH
LOUTISH BUFFOONS.
NAY, ONE MUST BE HUMAN TO BE A BUFFOON...


BLOOB
BLOOB
BLOOB
BLOOB
THAT'S RIDICULOUS.

IS THAT EVEN PHYSICALLY POSSIBLE?
BUT THERE'S A RECORD OF IT.
TOTALLY RIDICULOUS.
RMB RMB RMB
CLANK CLANK
THWOMP

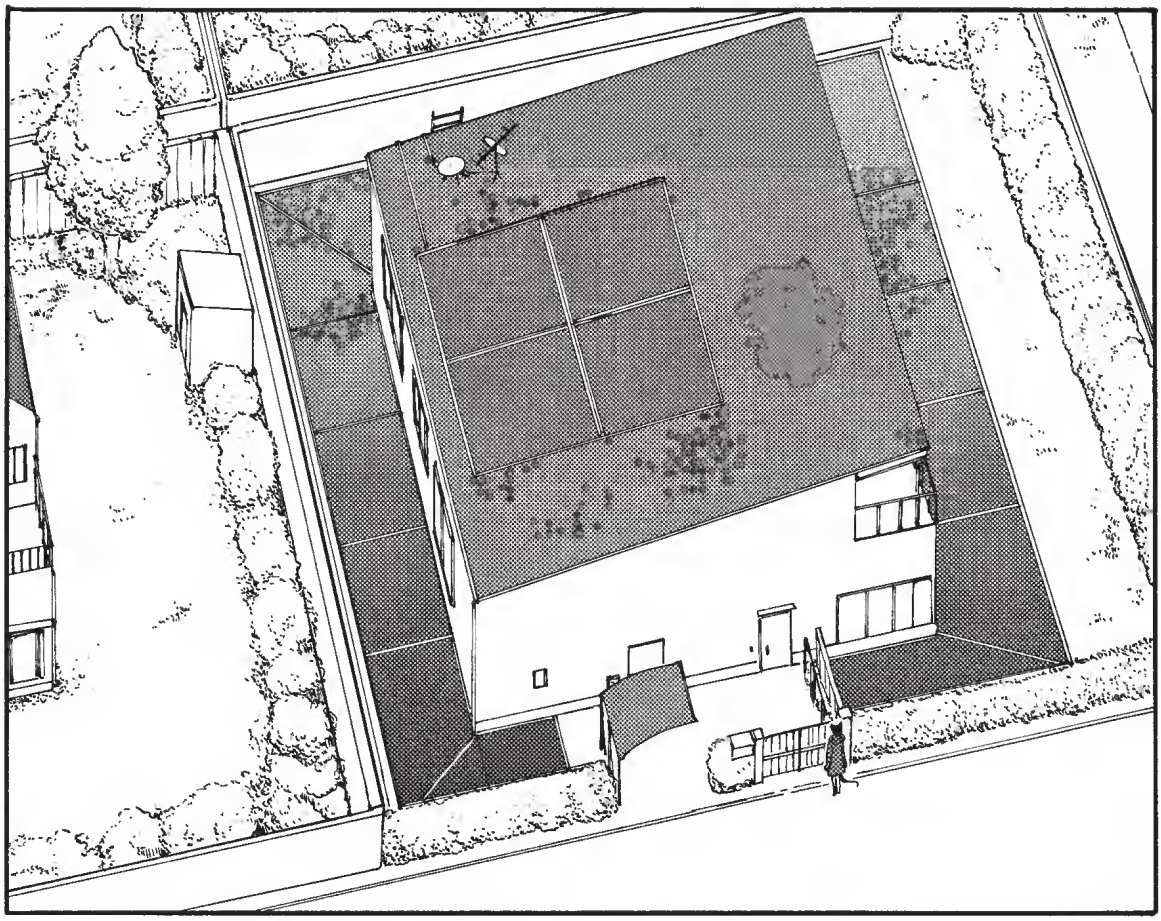
YOU... COULD HAVE JUST TAKEN HIM CAPTIVE.
THE VICEROY'S HEAD, AS PROMISED.
IT MAKES NO DIFFER-ENCE.
NOW HONOR YOUR END OF THE BARGAIN.
IF THOSE EARS YOU SO BOASTED ABOUT DON'T PROVE TO BE OF ANY ASSISTANCE, THE SAME FATE AWAITS YOU.

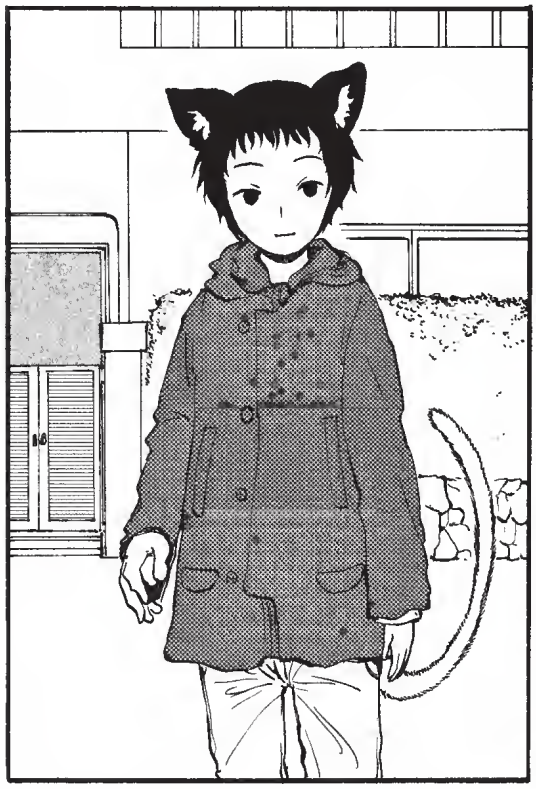

AND THEN, TREATMENT OF CENTAUR SLAVES THROUGH-OUT EUROPE GOT FAR MORE OPPRESSIVE.
SOME ACCOUNTS HOLD THAT THANKS TO THEM, THE SPANISH KING GAVE UP ON INVADING FRANCE.
IN REALITY, IT WASN'T JUST THREE MEN, BUT LITERAL DROVES OF FREED SLAVES TAGGING ALONG.
That's so freaky!
Stop it!
AND THAT'S THE STORY OF HOW WE GOT THIS.

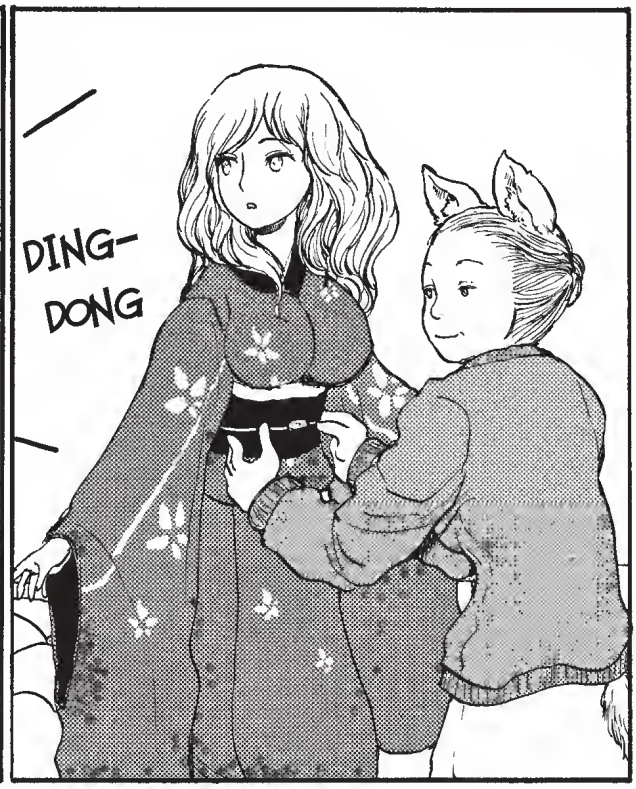
A CentaUr's Life

TRADITIONAL DRESS FROM AROUND THE WORLD (KENYA)

WHILE THE METROPOLITAN CENTERS OF KENYA BEAR A STRONG EUROPEAN INFLUENCE, OTHER REGIONS STILL SERVE AS HOME TO NUMEROUS TRIBES, EACH WITH THEIR OWN UNIQUE TRADITIONS. IN THE TRADITIONAL FEMALE DRESS OF THE MAASAI TRIBE, WHICH HAS BEEN POPULARIZED IN CONTEMPORARY BOYS' FICTION, THE ORNATE NECKPIECES ADORNED WITH BEADS AND COWRIE SHELLS ARE PARTICULARLY EYE-CATCHING. THE BEADS IN THESE NECKPIECES ORIGINALLY CAME BY WAY OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND EUROPE, AND ARE ARRANGED INTO INTRICATE, COLORFUL DESIGNS--RED REPRESENTS OX BLOOD, WHITE REPRESENTS COW'S MILK, AND BLUE REPRESENTS THE SKY. RED CLOTH WRAPS KNOWN AS *SHUKA* ALSO CONTRAST VIBRANTLY WITH THE EARTH. BUT THIS VIBRANCE IS NOT EXCLUSIVE TO THE WOMEN--THE MEN OF THE MAASAI TRIBE ARE ALSO INCREDIBLY FASHIONABLE.

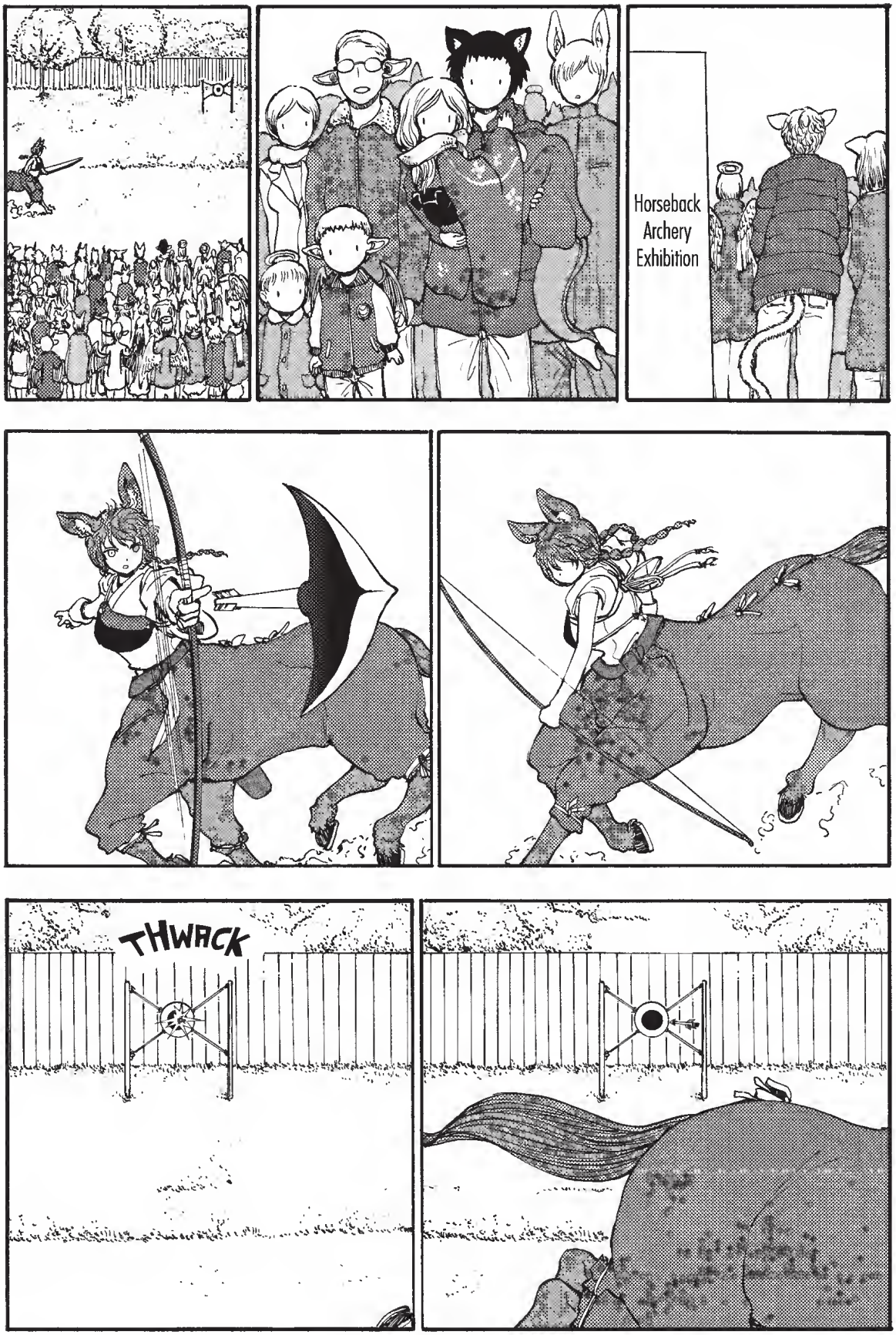


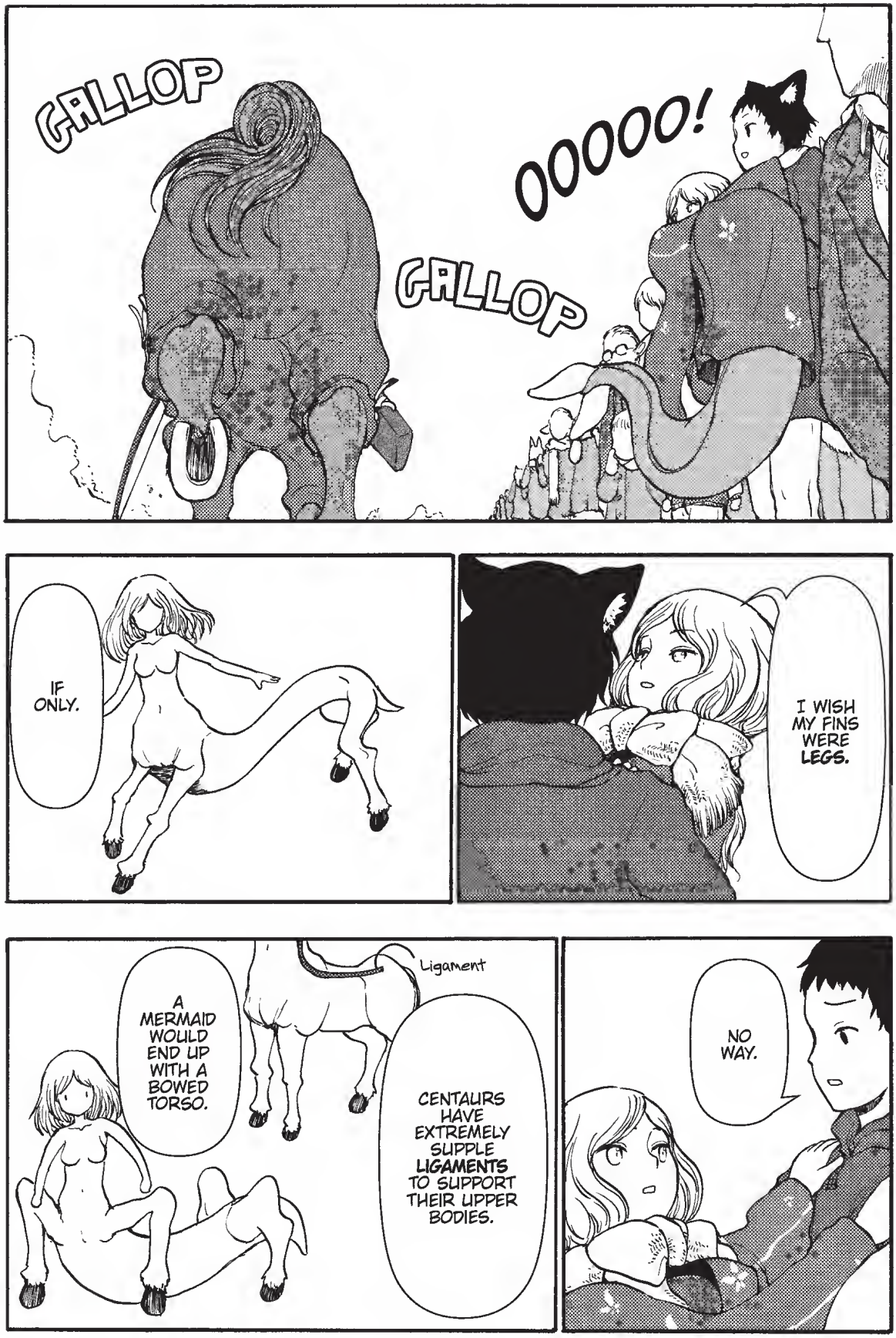



DING-
DONG

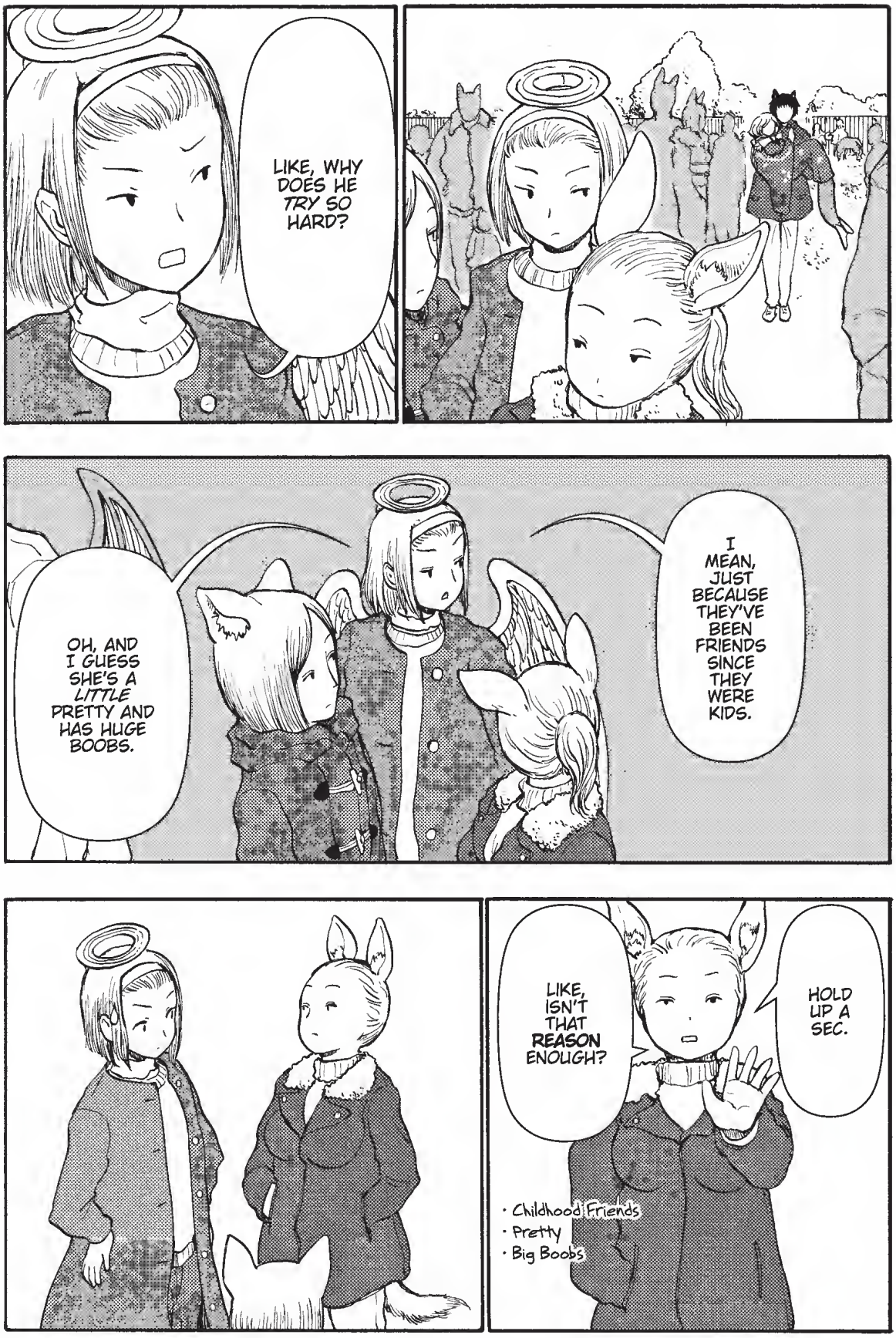
SWIP
TAKAMICHI-KUN. JUST A MINUTE, OKAY?
HOW DO I LOOK?
VERY NICE.
YOU SHOULD BE FINE, BUT BE BACK BEFORE IT GETS DARK.

CHAPTER 48

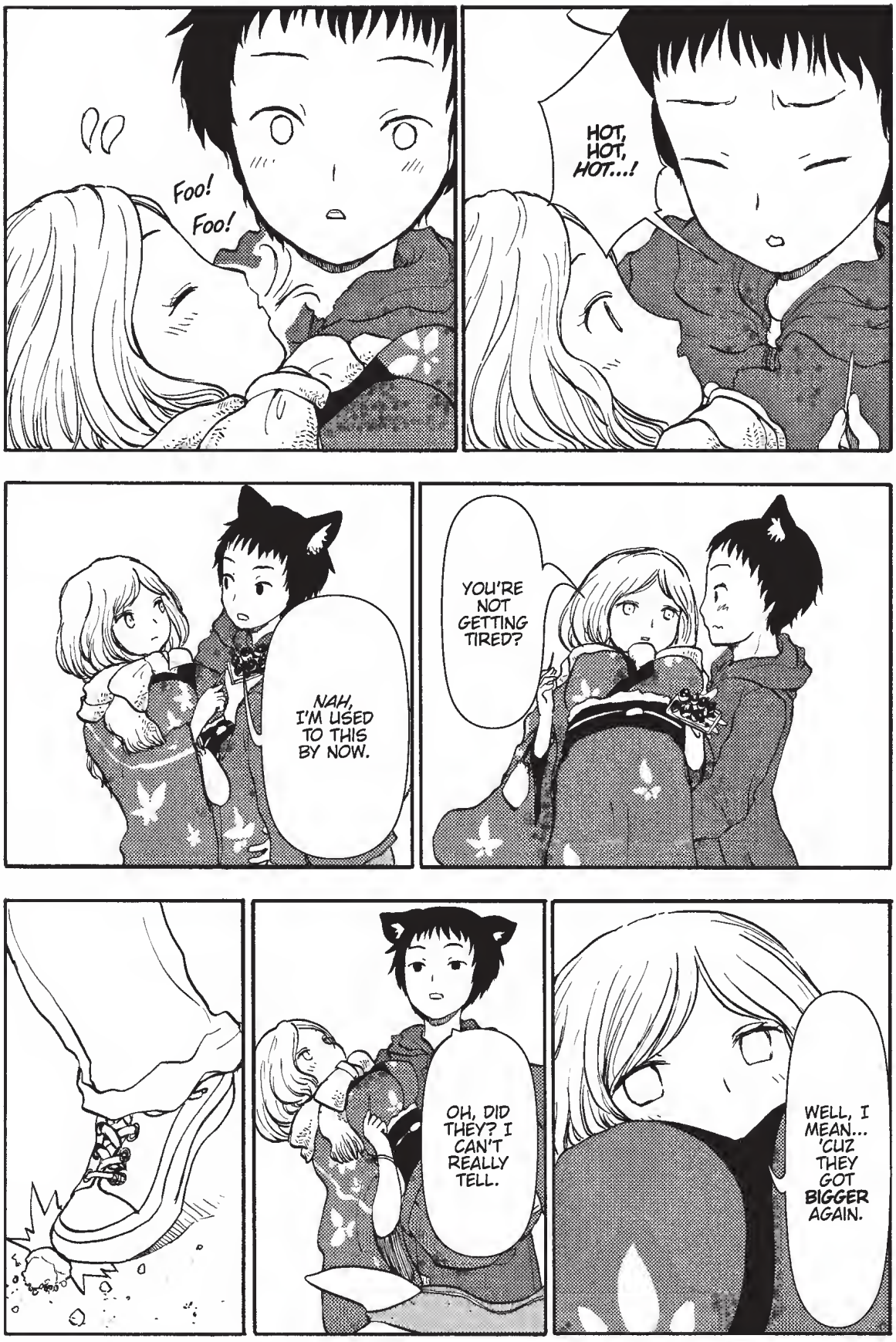

Horseback
Archery
Exhibition
THWACK


GALLOP
GALLOP
OOOOO!
IF ONLY.
I WISH MY FINS WERE LEGS.
A MERMAID WOULD END UP WITH A BOWED TORSO.
Ligament
CENTAURS HAVE EXTREMELY SUPPLE LIGAMENTS TO SUPPORT THEIR UPPER BODIES.
NO WAY.

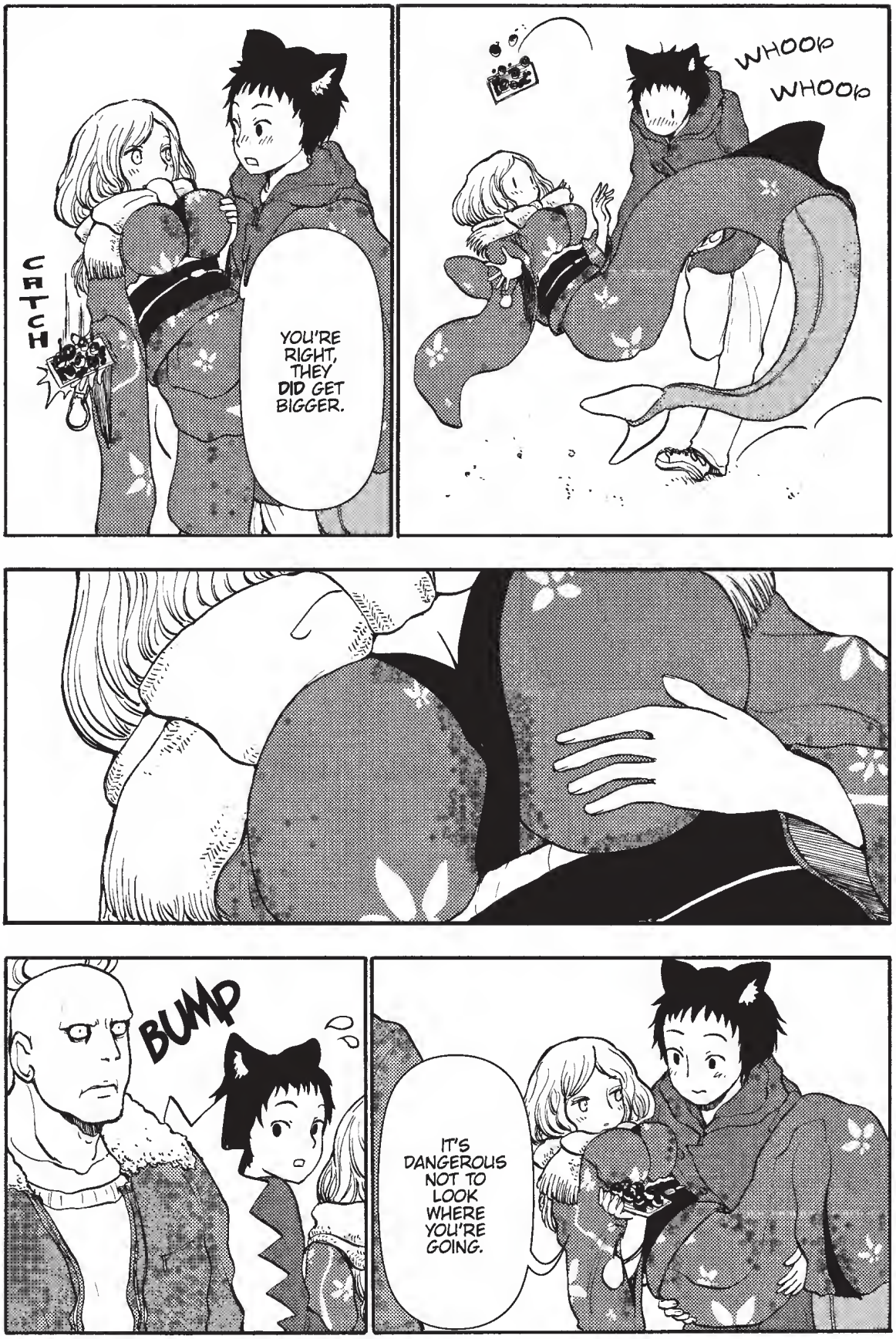
IS IT BECAUSE YOU'RE A BOY, OR BECAUSE YOU'RE SO SCIENTIFIC?
??
WHAT?
THAT MUST WEAR YOU DOWN, EH, KOMA?
ER, NO. NOT REALLY.
WELL, IF IT ISN'T KOMA AND SHIZUURA.
GUESS WE BETTER NOT BOTHER THESE TWO. LET'S GO.
WELLLL! I GUESS NOW WE KNOW!
THAT'S RIGHT. HE DOES THIS BECAUSE HE LIKES TO.

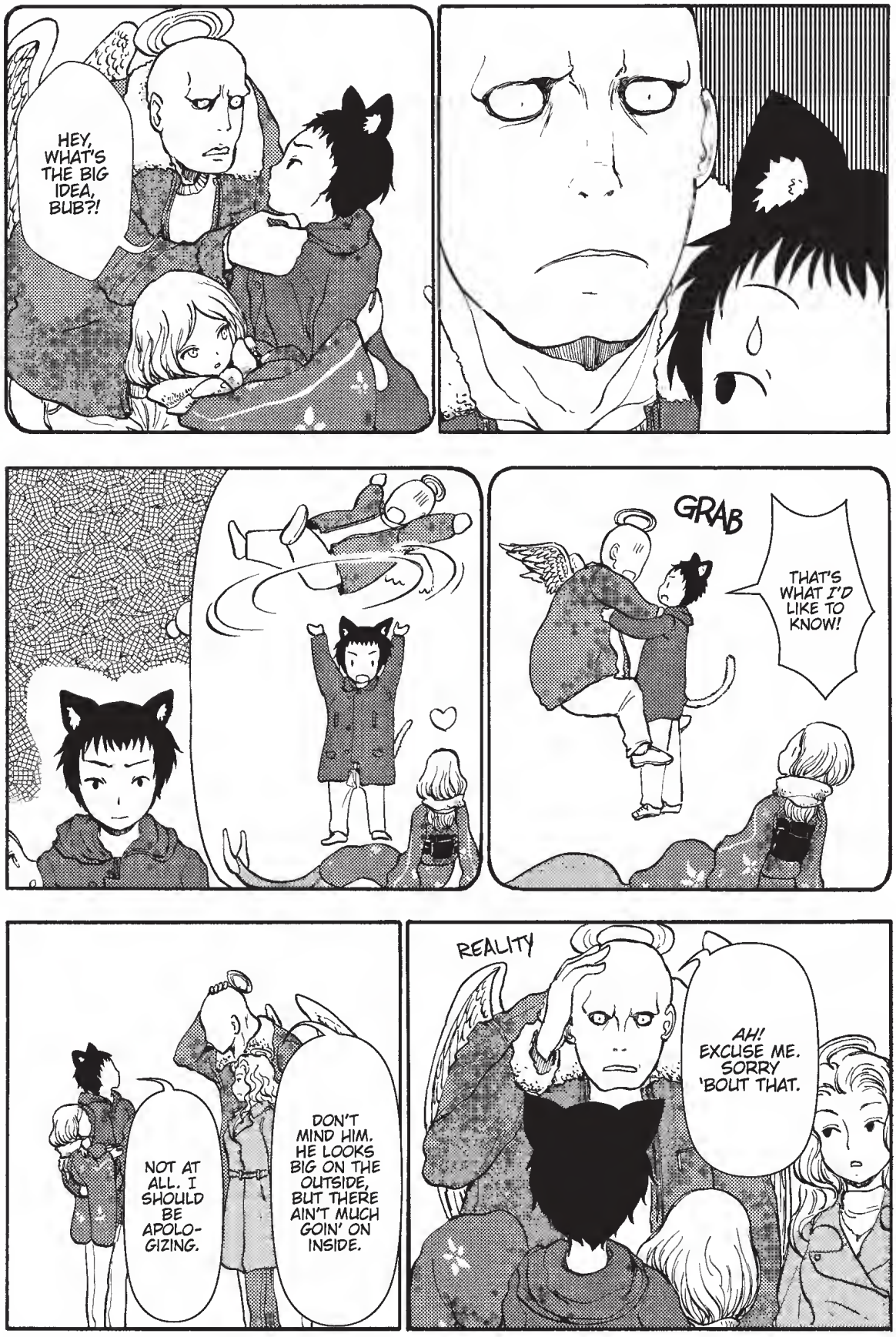

LIKE, WHY DOES HE *TRY* SO HARD?
I MEAN, JUST BECAUSE THEY'VE BEEN FRIENDS SINCE THEY WERE KIDS.
OH, AND I GUESS SHE'S A *LITTLE* PRETTY AND HAS HUGE BOOBS.
HOLD UP A SEC.
LIKE, ISN'T THAT **REASON** ENOUGH?
· Childhood Friends
· Pretty
· Big Boobs

JINGLE
CLONG
CLING
HEH. I SUPPOSE SO. THAT'LL BE FIVE-HUN'RED YEN.
WELL, THAT'S ALL WE CAN HOLD.
JUST ONE, THEN?
AKOYAKI
MUNCH

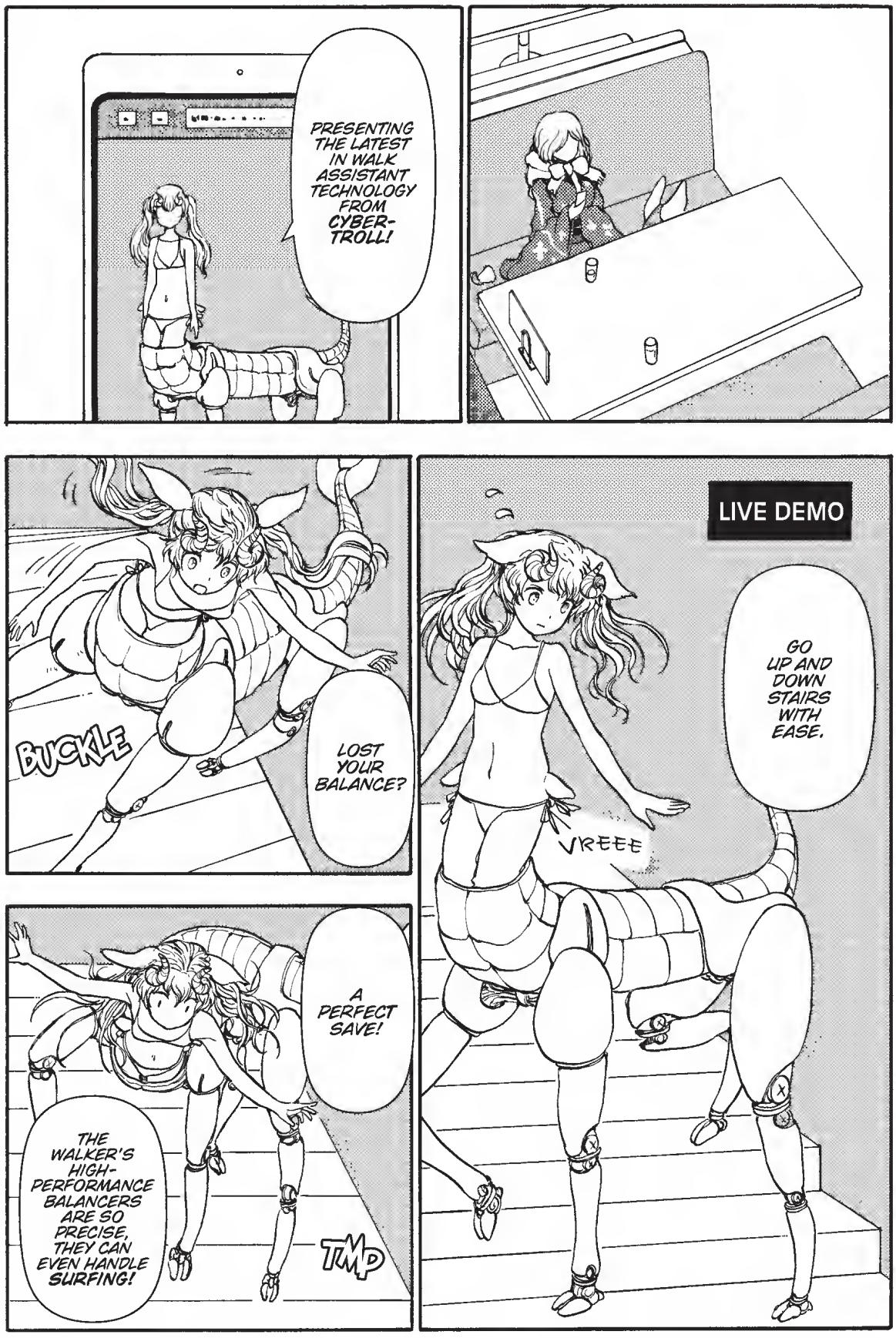

Foo!
Foo!
HOT, HOT, HOT...!
NAH, I'M USED TO THIS BY NOW.
YOU'RE NOT GETTING TIRED?
OH, DID THEY? I CAN'T REALLY TELL.
WELL, I MEAN... 'CUZ THEY GOT BIGGER AGAIN.

OOPS?!
EEK!


CATCH
YOU'RE RIGHT, THEY DID GET BIGGER.
WHOOP WHOOP
BUMP
IT'S DANGEROUS NOT TO LOOK WHERE YOU'RE GOING.


HEY, WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA, BUB?!
GRAB
THAT'S WHAT I'D LIKE TO KNOW!
NOT AT ALL. I SHOULD BE APOLO-GIZING.
DON'T MIND HIM. HE LOOKS BIG ON THE OUTSIDE, BUT THERE AIN'T MUCH GOIN' ON INSIDE.
REALITY
AH! EXCUSE ME. SORRY 'BOUT THAT.

THAT'S EMBARRASSING!
YOU CARRY ME, TOO.
LIKE I SAID, AIN'T MUCH GOIN' ON INSIDE.
IS SHE YOUR SISTER?
GEEE, MUST BE NICE.
YOUR GIRLFRIEND?
WELL, TAKE CARE.
ER, I SUPPOSE *WE'RE* THE ONES WHO SHOULD TAKE MORE CARE.
IS THIS EMBARRASSING?
UH-UH. I'M USED TO IT.
WHAT ABOUT YOU, LULU?
UM... I THINK **I'M** MORE EMBARRASSED BY THAT NICKNAME.

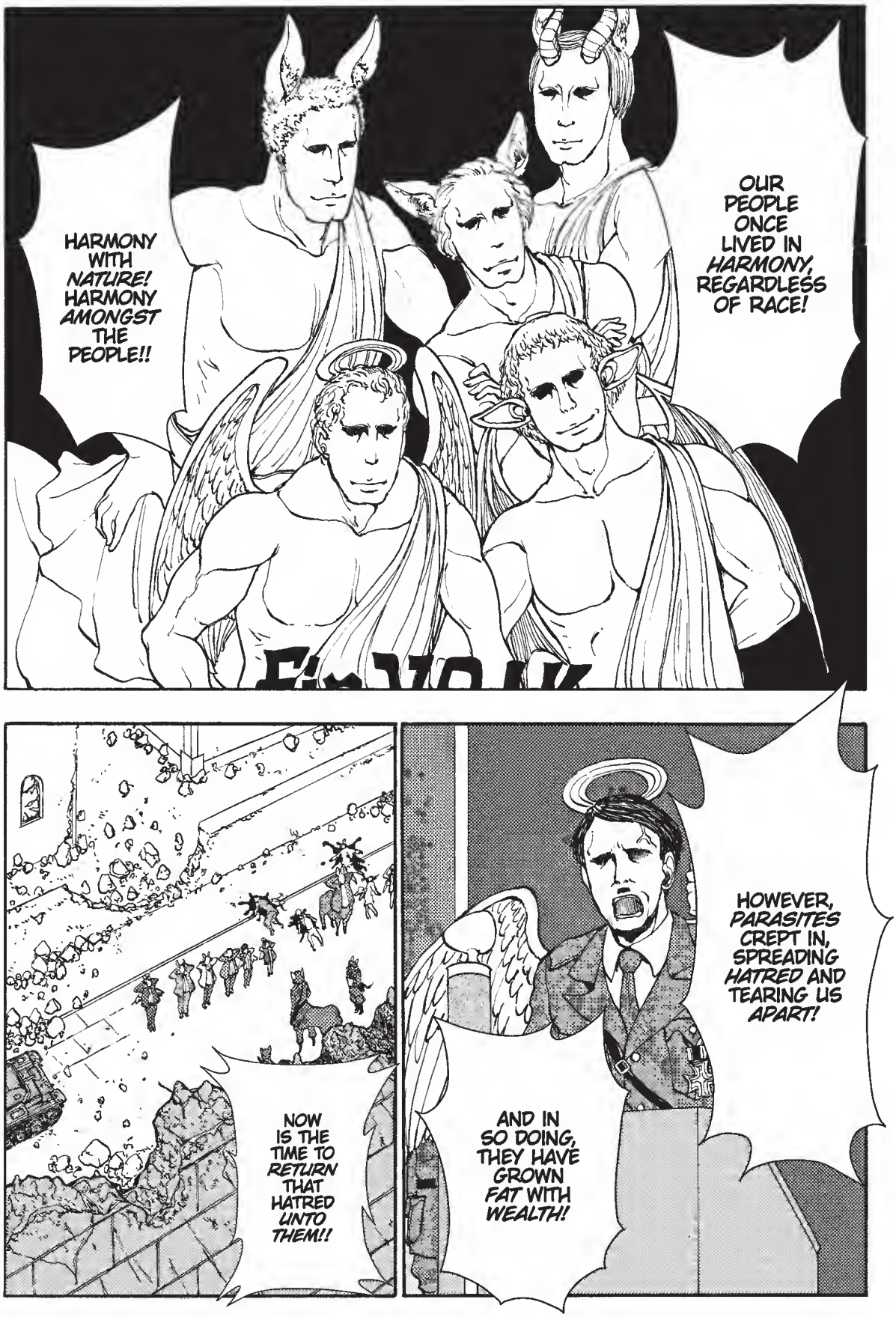

PRESENTING THE LATEST IN WALK ASSISTANT TECHNOLOGY FROM CYBER-TROLL!
LIVE DEMO
GO UP AND DOWN STAIRS WITH EASE.
VREEE
BUCKLE
LOST YOUR BALANCE?
A PERFECT SAVE!
THE WALKER'S HIGH-PERFORMANCE BALANCERS ARE SO PRECISE, THEY CAN EVEN HANDLE SURFING!
TMP

NOW, PROFESSOR, THERE ARE THOSE WHO SAY THAT THE CORRECTIVE EQUALITY BUDGET IS ONLY BEING ALLOCATED TO MERFOLK CAUSES, AND THAT THIS IS MERELY REVERSE RACISM.
THAT'S UNAVOIDABLE IF WE'RE EVER TO ACHIEVE COMPLETE EQUALITY. THESE EFFORTS ARE WHAT WILL MOVE JAPAN FORWARD, AND THAT IS IN TURN CONNECTED TO THE HAPPINESS AND WELL-BEING OF THE ENTIRE WORLD!
AND NO MORE FUMBLING WITH CLUMSY REMOTE CONTROLS!
PUT SOME CLOTHES ON IT, AND YOU CAN HARDLY EVEN TELL IT'S A MACHINE!
NERVE PULSE SENSORS ALLOW YOU TO CONTROL THE WALKER JUST AS THOUGH YOU WERE MOVING YOUR OWN ARMS AND LEGS!
IT'S A MECHANICAL WALKING ASSISTANT FOR MERFOLK.
¥6,660,000
I WANT ONE.
SORRY FOR THE WAIT.
WHAT'RE YA WATCHING?
HOLY CRAP, THAT'S EXPENSIVE!
OH, BUT I'D GET FINANCIAL AID, SO...
YOU'RE RIGHT. IT'D STILL BE TOO MUCH.

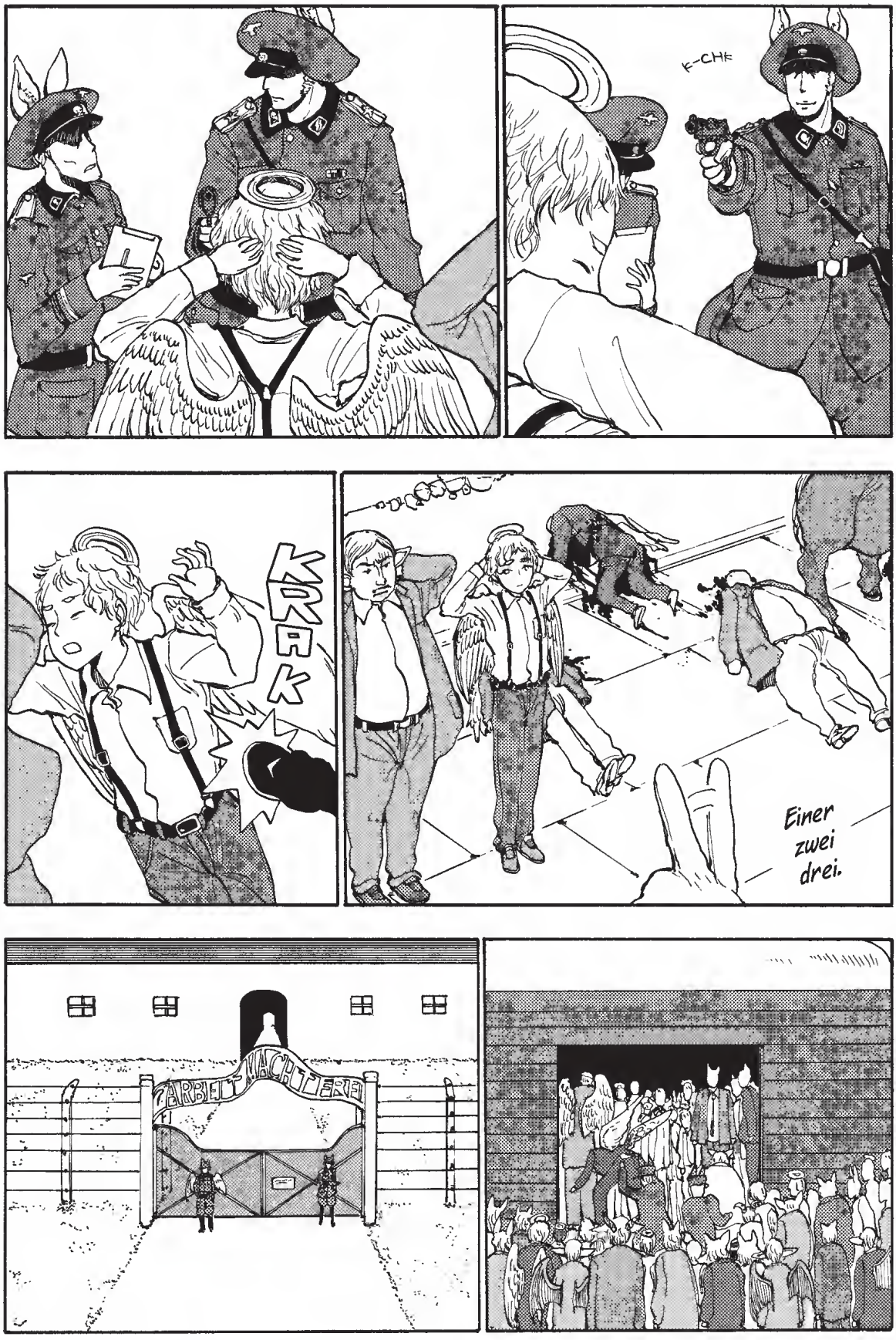
A CentaUr's Life

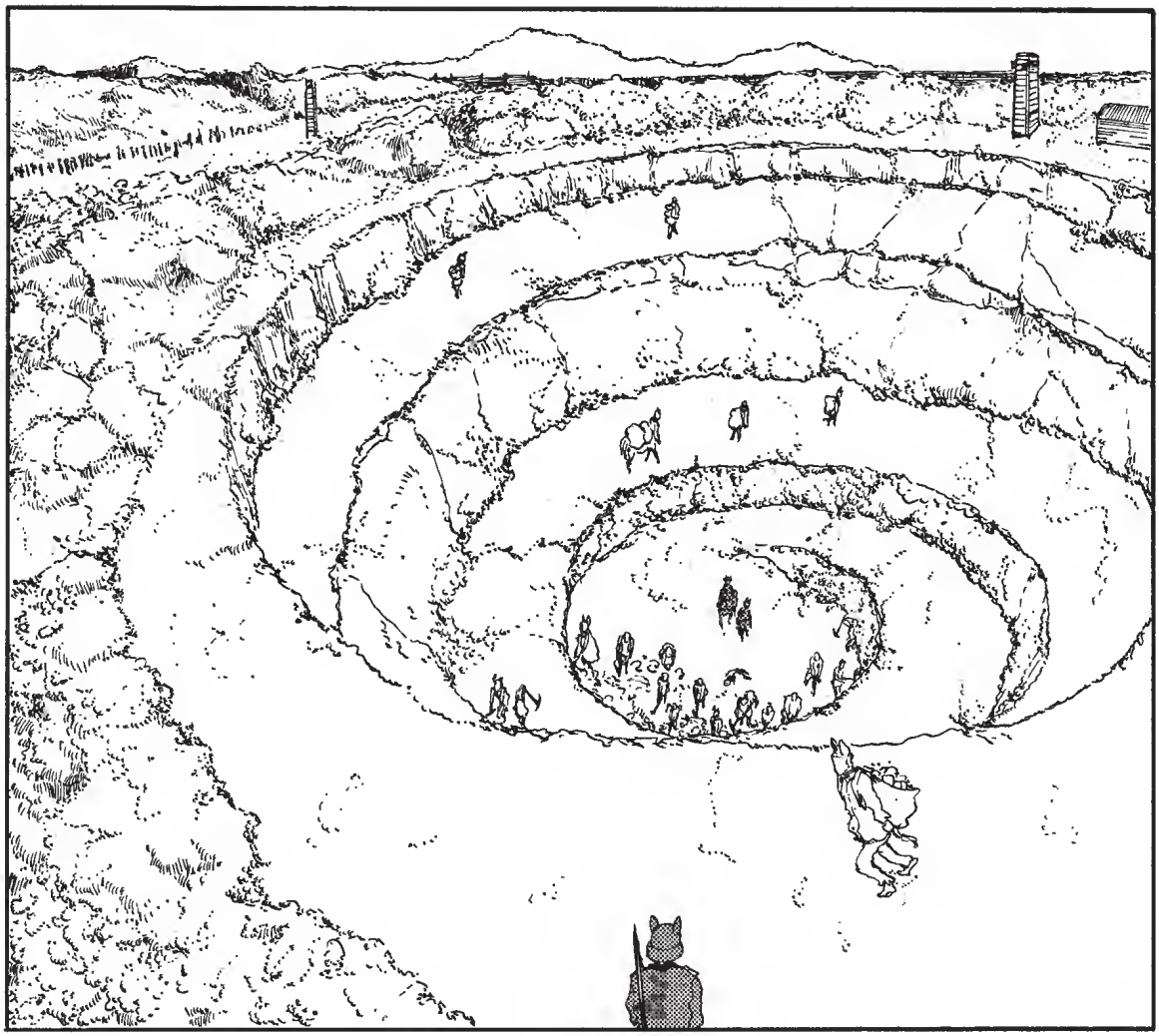
TRADITIONAL DRESS FROM AROUND THE WORLD (ERITREA)

THE RASHAIDA TRIBE, WHICH ACCOUNTS FOR TWO PERCENT OF THE ERITREAN POPULATION, ORIGINALLY MADE THEIR HOME IN THE ARABIAN PENINSULA, BUT WERE DRIVEN BY WAR ACROSS THE RED SEA AND INTO AFRICA. CENTERED ON THE NUBIAN DESERT, THEY CAME TO LIVE NOMADICALLY, AND EVEN NOW SOME MEMBERS OF THE TRIBE MAKE THEIR HOME IN THE MIDDLE EAST, CARRYING OUT TRADE WITH ERITREA AND THE NEIGHBORING SUDAN, AS WELL AS THE ARABIAN PENINSULA. BECAUSE OF THIS BACKGROUND, MANY ARABIC CUSTOMS HAVE TAKEN DEEP ROOT WITHIN THE RASHAIDA CULTURE, SUCH AS THE DONNING OF FACE-CONCEALING BURQAS BY FEMALE MEMBERS. THESE, HOWEVER, ARE NOT THE PLAIN, SOLID BLACK BURQAS TYPICALLY PICTURED BY OUTSIDERS, BUT ARE IN FACT ADORNED "SO HEAVILY AS TO IMPEDE MOBILITY" IN BEAUTIFUL DECORATIONS PRIMARILY MADE OF SILVER.


HARMONY WITH *NATURE!* HARMONY *AMONGST* THE PEOPLE!!
OUR PEOPLE ONCE LIVED IN *HARMONY,* REGARDLESS OF RACE!
HOWEVER, *PARASITES* CREPT IN, SPREADING *HATRED* AND TEARING US *APART!*
AND IN SO DOING, THEY HAVE GROWN *FAT* WITH *WEALTH!*
NOW IS THE TIME TO *RETURN* THAT HATRED *UNTO THEM!!*

CHAPTER 49

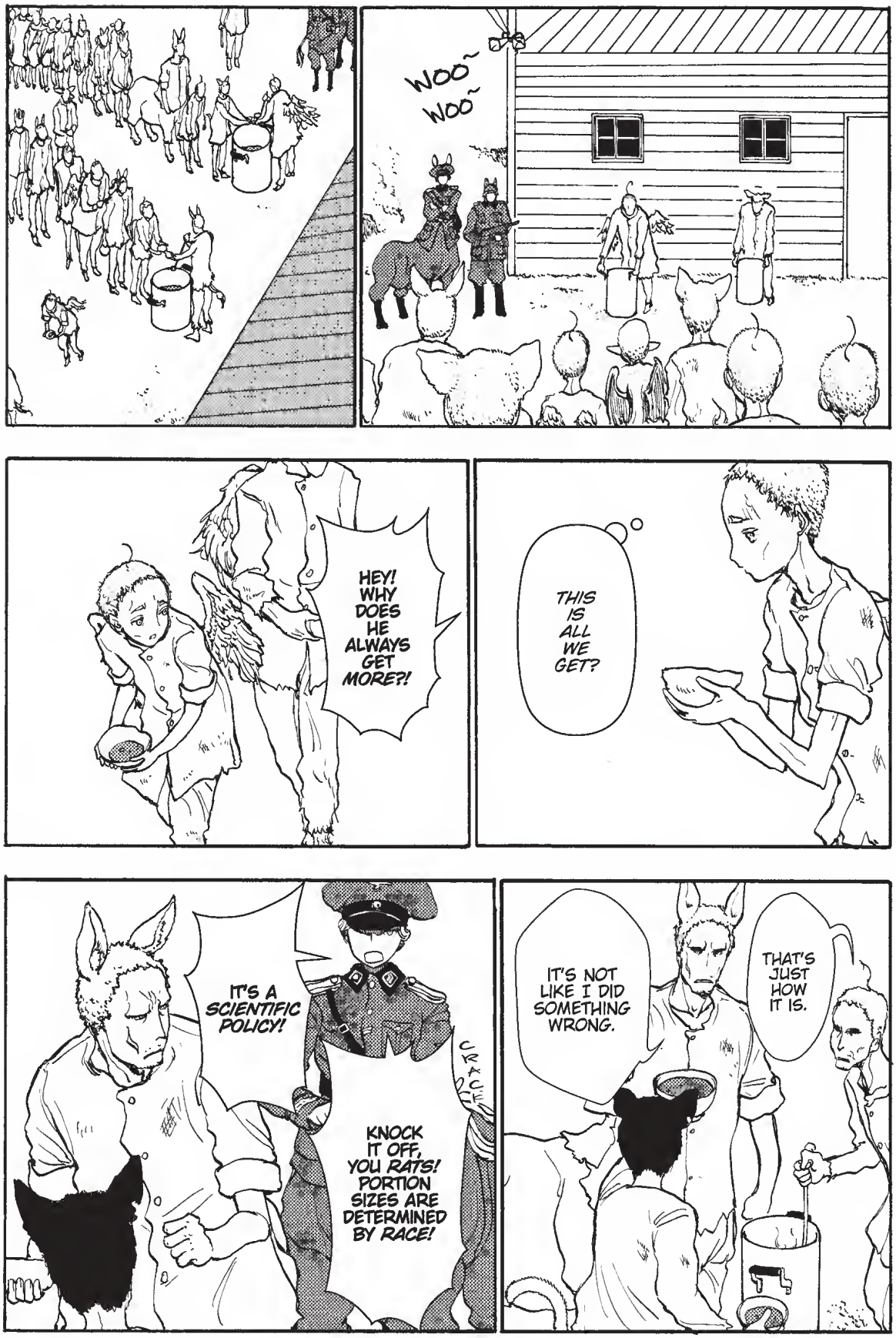

K-CHK
KRAK
Einer zwei drei.
ARBEIT MACHT FREI



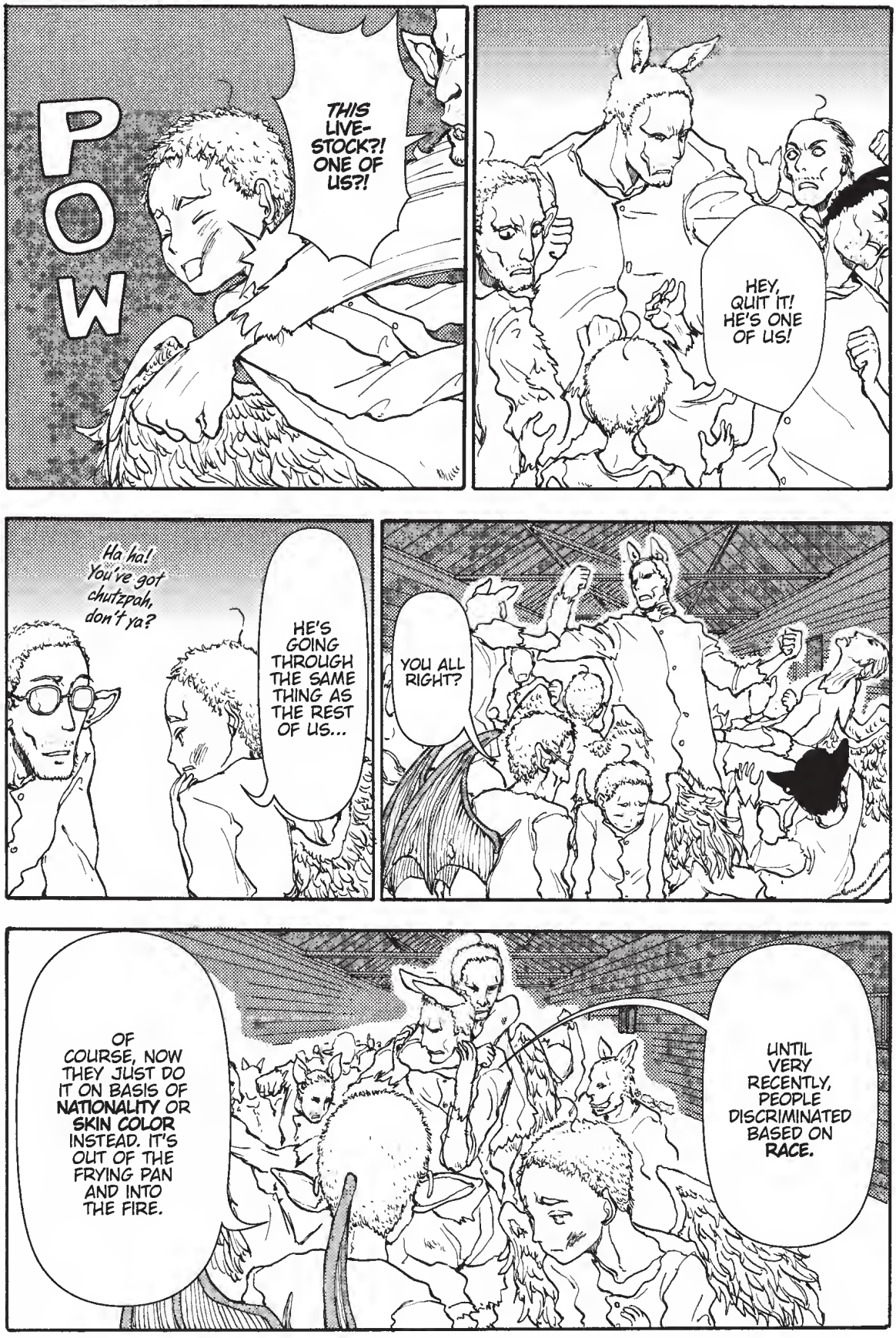
WHEW...

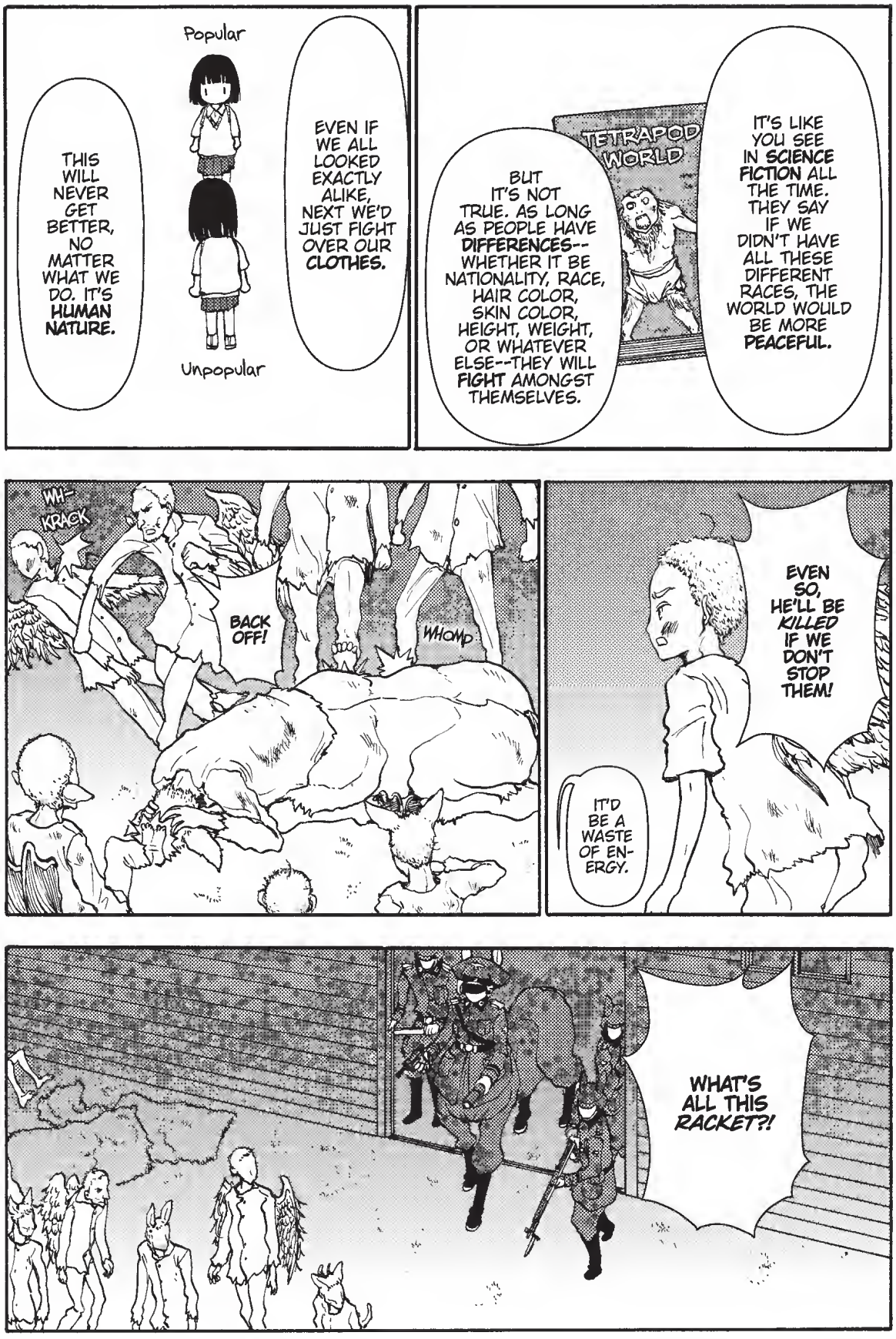
TUNK

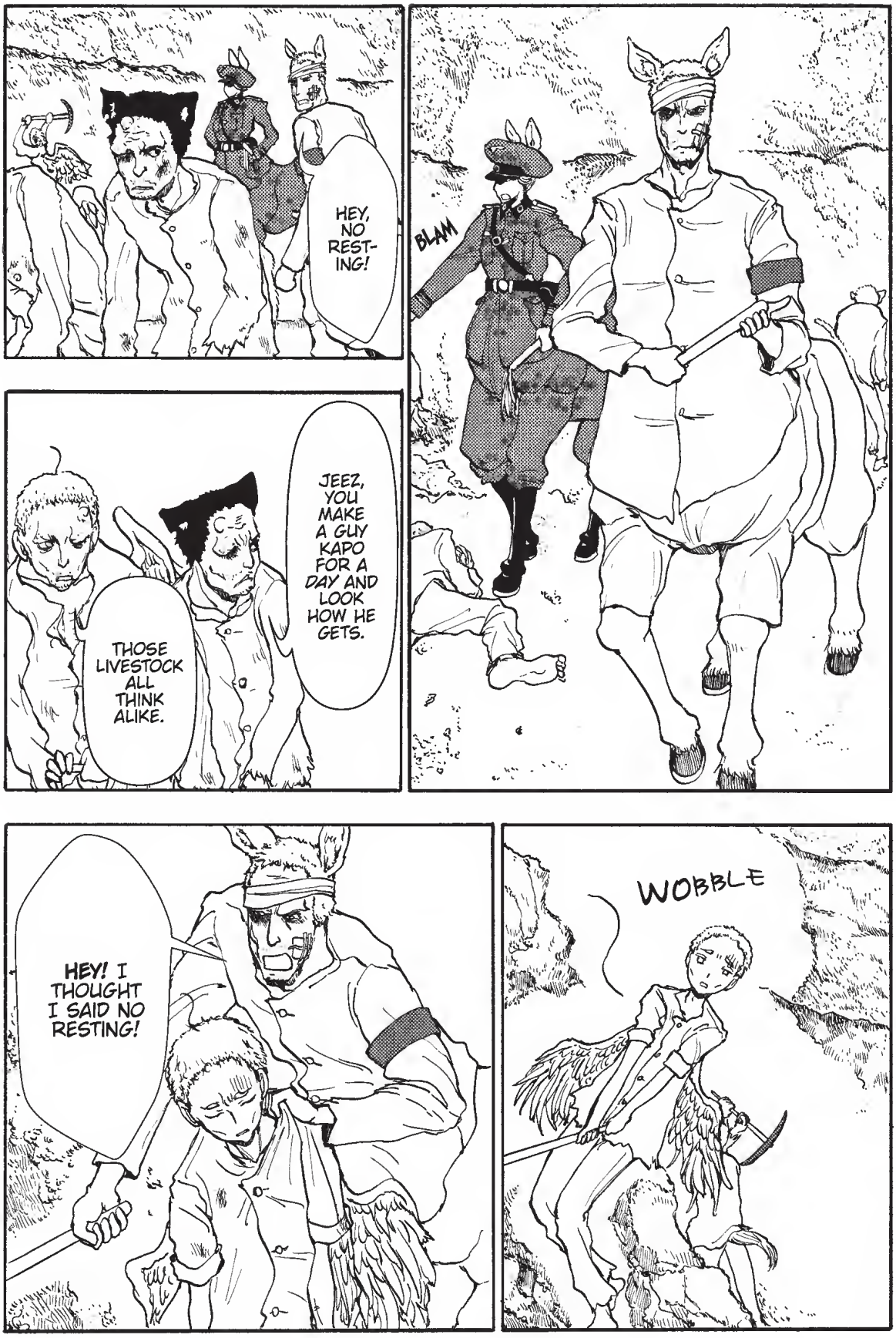
WHUMP
DO NOT REST!
STAND.
WORK!
HEY! YOU THINK YOU GET TO LAZE AROUND WHILE THE REST OF US WORK?!
WHUD
WHUD
THAT'S RIGHT. IT IS LABOR THAT WILL SET YOU FREE.
WHUMP

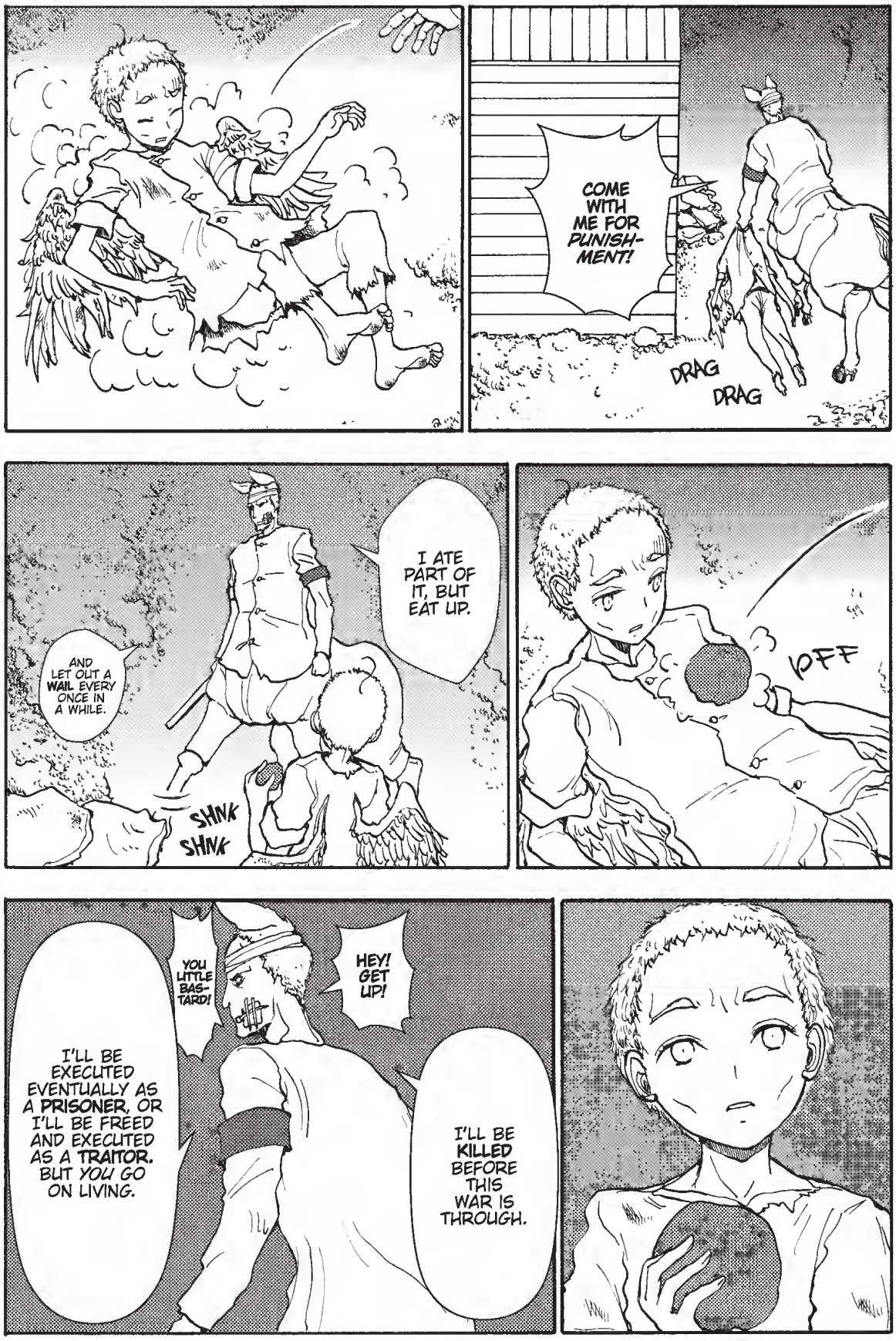

WOO~
WOO~
HEY! WHY DOES HE ALWAYS GET MORE?!
THIS IS ALL WE GET?
IT'S A SCIENTIFIC POLICY!
KNOCK IT OFF, YOU RATS! PORTION SIZES ARE DETERMINED BY RACE!
CRACK
IT'S NOT LIKE I DID SOMETHING WRONG.
THAT'S JUST HOW IT IS.

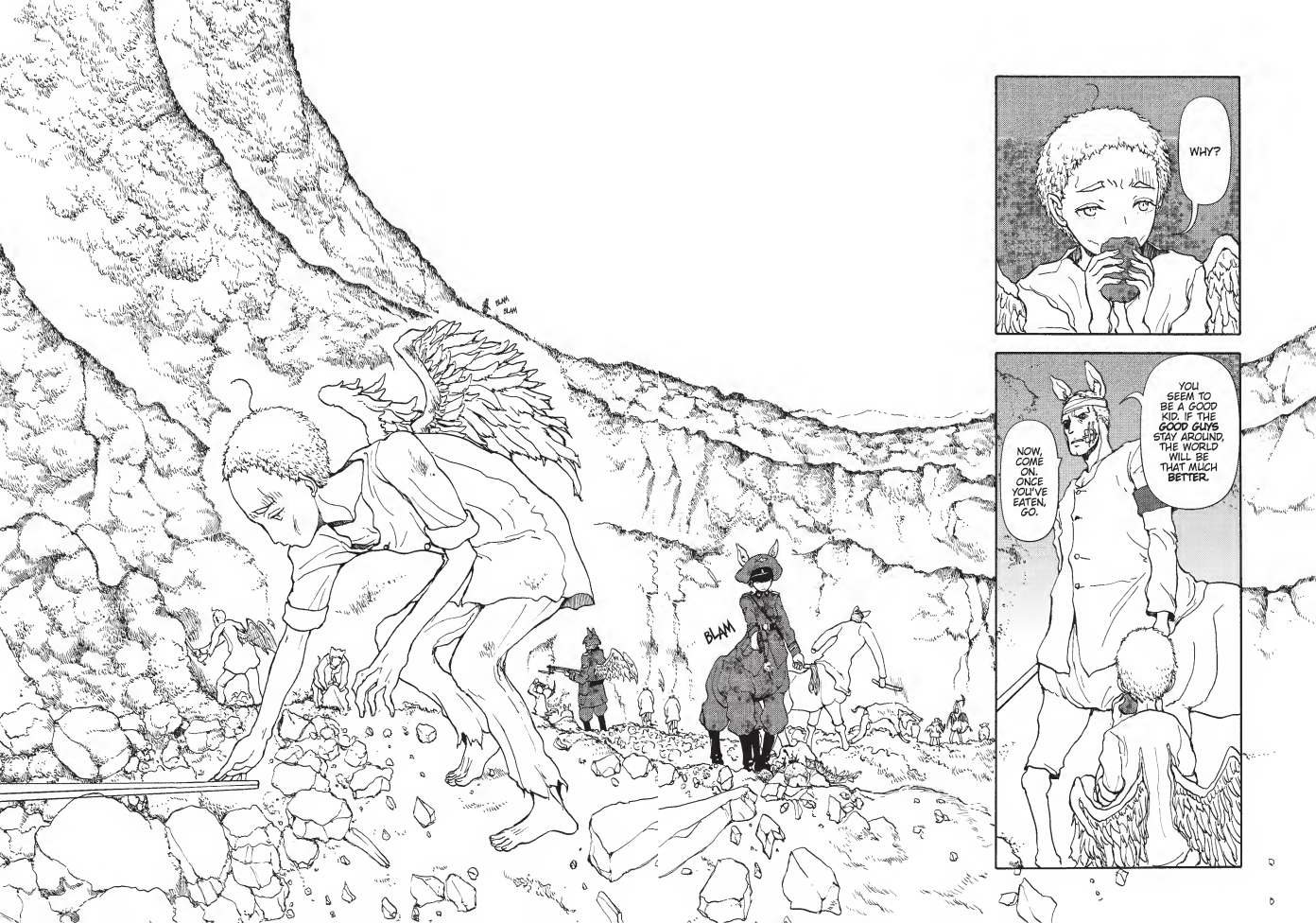
I SWEAR, EVERY TIME YOU *INFERIOR RACES* OPEN YOUR MOUTHS, IT'S JUST **JEALOUSY** AND **PREJUDICE.**
JEEZ, I'M STARVING.
SHUT UP!
TAKE OUT THAT GOD-DAMNED *HORSE TRAITOR!*
GET 'IM! GET 'IM!
YOU SURE SEEM TO GET ALONG AWFUL WELL WITH THAT CORPORAL, SEEING AS YOU'RE **BOTH** LIVESTOCK.
EXCUSE ME, BUT I DON'T GET A MASSIVE FEAST EVERY DAY LIKE YOU, *LIVESTOCK.*
WHAT'S THAT?!

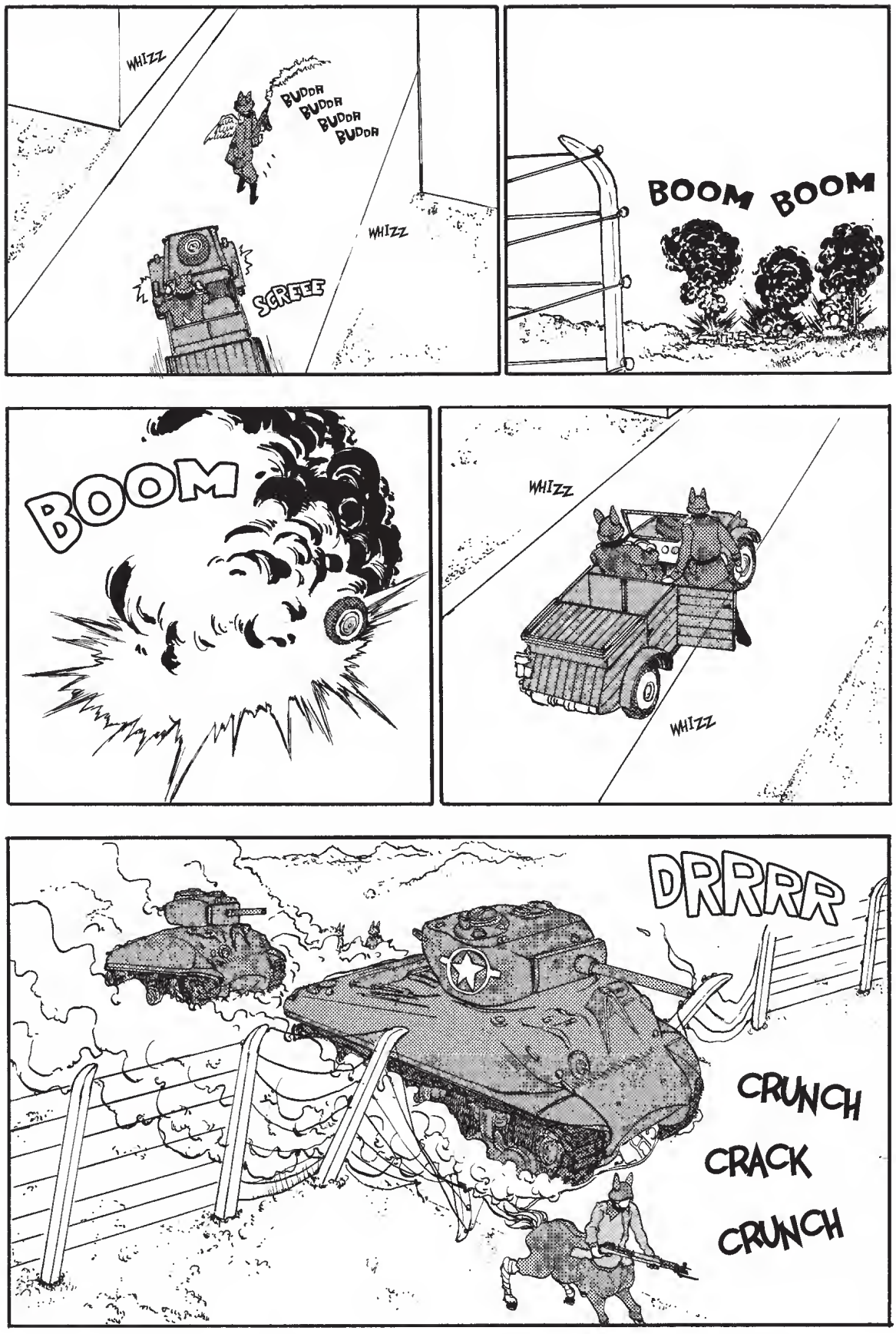

POW
THIS LIVE-STOCK?! ONE OF US?!
HEY, QUIT IT! HE'S ONE OF US!
Ha ha! You've got chutzpah, don't ya?
HE'S GOING THROUGH THE SAME THING AS THE REST OF US...
YOU ALL RIGHT?
OF COURSE, NOW THEY JUST DO IT ON BASIS OF NATIONALITY OR SKIN COLOR INSTEAD. IT'S OUT OF THE FRYING PAN AND INTO THE FIRE.
UNTIL VERY RECENTLY, PEOPLE DISCRIMINATED BASED ON RACE.

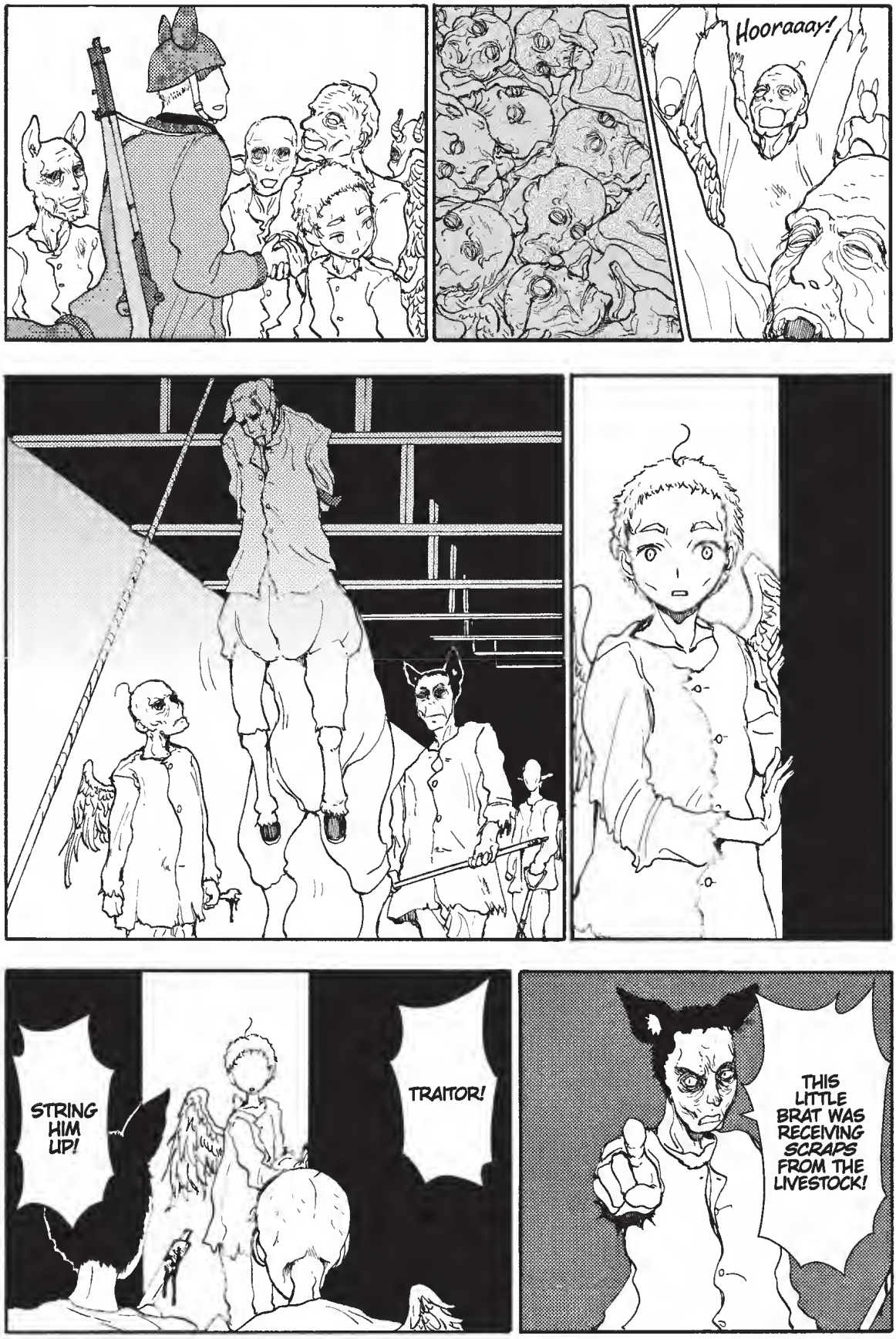

Popular
Unpopular
THIS WILL NEVER GET BETTER, NO MATTER WHAT WE DO. IT'S HUMAN NATURE.
EVEN IF WE ALL LOOKED EXACTLY ALIKE, NEXT WE'D JUST FIGHT OVER OUR CLOTHES.
TETRAPOD WORLD
BUT IT'S NOT TRUE. AS LONG AS PEOPLE HAVE DIFFERENCES--WHETHER IT BE NATIONALITY, RACE, HAIR COLOR, SKIN COLOR, HEIGHT, WEIGHT, OR WHATEVER ELSE--THEY WILL FIGHT AMONGST THEMSELVES.
IT'S LIKE YOU SEE IN SCIENCE FICTION ALL THE TIME. THEY SAY IF WE DIDN'T HAVE ALL THESE DIFFERENT RACES, THE WORLD WOULD BE MORE PEACEFUL.
WH-
KRACK
BACK OFF!
WHOMP
EVEN SO, HE'LL BE KILLED IF WE DON'T STOP THEM!
IT'D BE A WASTE OF ENERGY.
WHAT'S ALL THIS RACKET?!


HEY, NO REST-ING!
BLAM
JEEZ, YOU MAKE A GUY KAPO FOR A DAY AND LOOK HOW HE GETS.
THOSE LIVESTOCK ALL THINK ALIKE.
HEY! I THOUGHT I SAID NO RESTING!
WOBBLE


COME WITH ME FOR PUNISH-MENT!
DRAG
DRAG
I ATE PART OF IT, BUT EAT UP.
AND LET OUT A WAIL EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE.
SHNK
SHNK
PFF
HEY! GET UP!
YOU LITTLE BAS-TARD!
I'LL BE EXECUTED EVENTUALLY AS A PRISONER, OR I'LL BE FREED AND EXECUTED AS A TRAITOR. BUT YOU GO ON LIVING.
I'LL BE KILLED BEFORE THIS WAR IS THROUGH.


BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
WHY?
YOU SEEM TO BE A GOOD KID. IF THE GOOD GUYS STAY AROUND, THE WORLD WILL BE THAT MUCH BETTER.
NOW, COME ON. ONCE YOU'VE EATEN, GO.


WHIZZ
BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA
WHIZZ
SCREEE
BOOM BOOM
BOOM
WHIZZ
WHIZZ
DRRRR
CRUNCH
CRACK
CRUNCH


Hooraaay!
STRING HIM UP!
TRAITOR!
THIS LITTLE BRAT WAS RECEIVING SCRAPS FROM THE LIVESTOCK!

WHUMP
<WHOA THERE.>
AMERICAN SOLDIER! HAND THAT BOY OVER TO US!
<HE'S AN ENEMY SPY!?>
<A SPY?>
<HE'S JUST A KID.>
<HE'S A TRAITOR! HE'S TO BE EXECUTED!?>

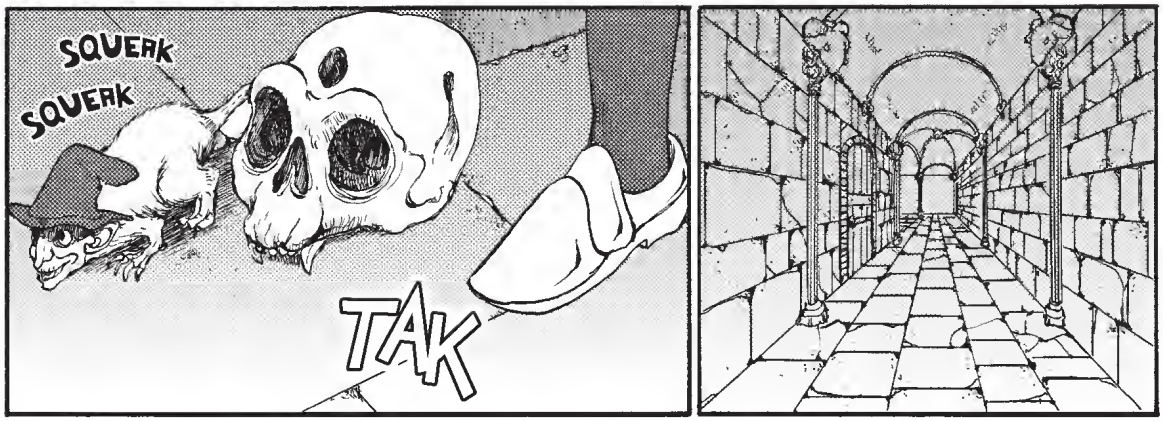
BANG
BANG
HE'S JUST SKIN AND BONE.
<IT'S OKAY. YOU'RE SAFE NOW.>
<HERE. IT'S M&A CHOCO-LATE.>
<I...>
<DO YOU UNDERSTAND ENGLISH? FOR NOW, YOU JUST NEED TO GET SOME NUTRITION AND REST.>
<WE'LL TRY AND GET IN TOUCH WITH YOUR RELATIVES. IF NOTHING ELSE, YOU CAN COME BACK HOME WITH ME TO MONTANA.>

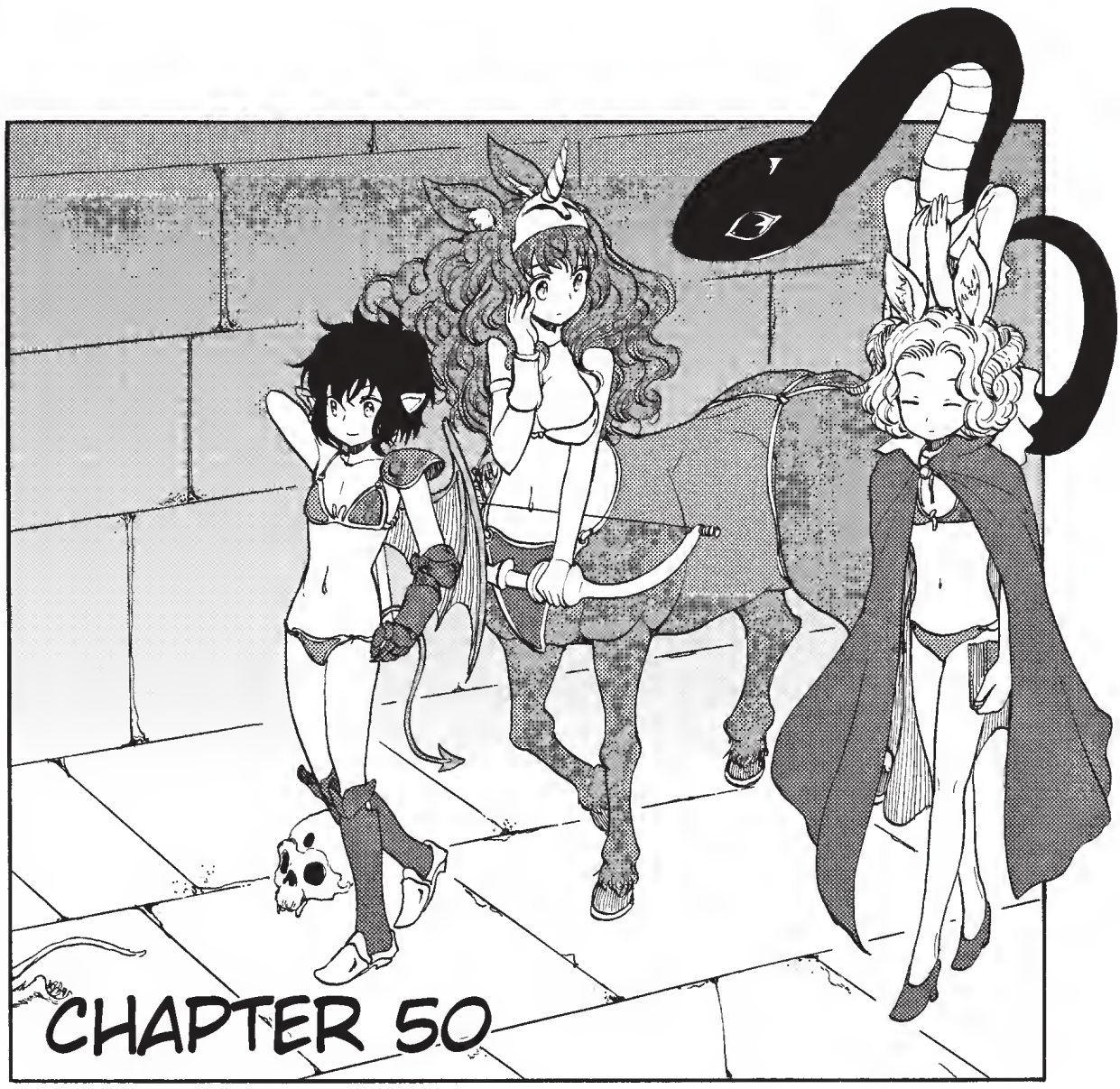
AH, PARDON ME. I ALWAYS SEEM TO DOZE OFF IN MY OLD AGE.
SIR, MR. ROUSSEAU IS HERE.

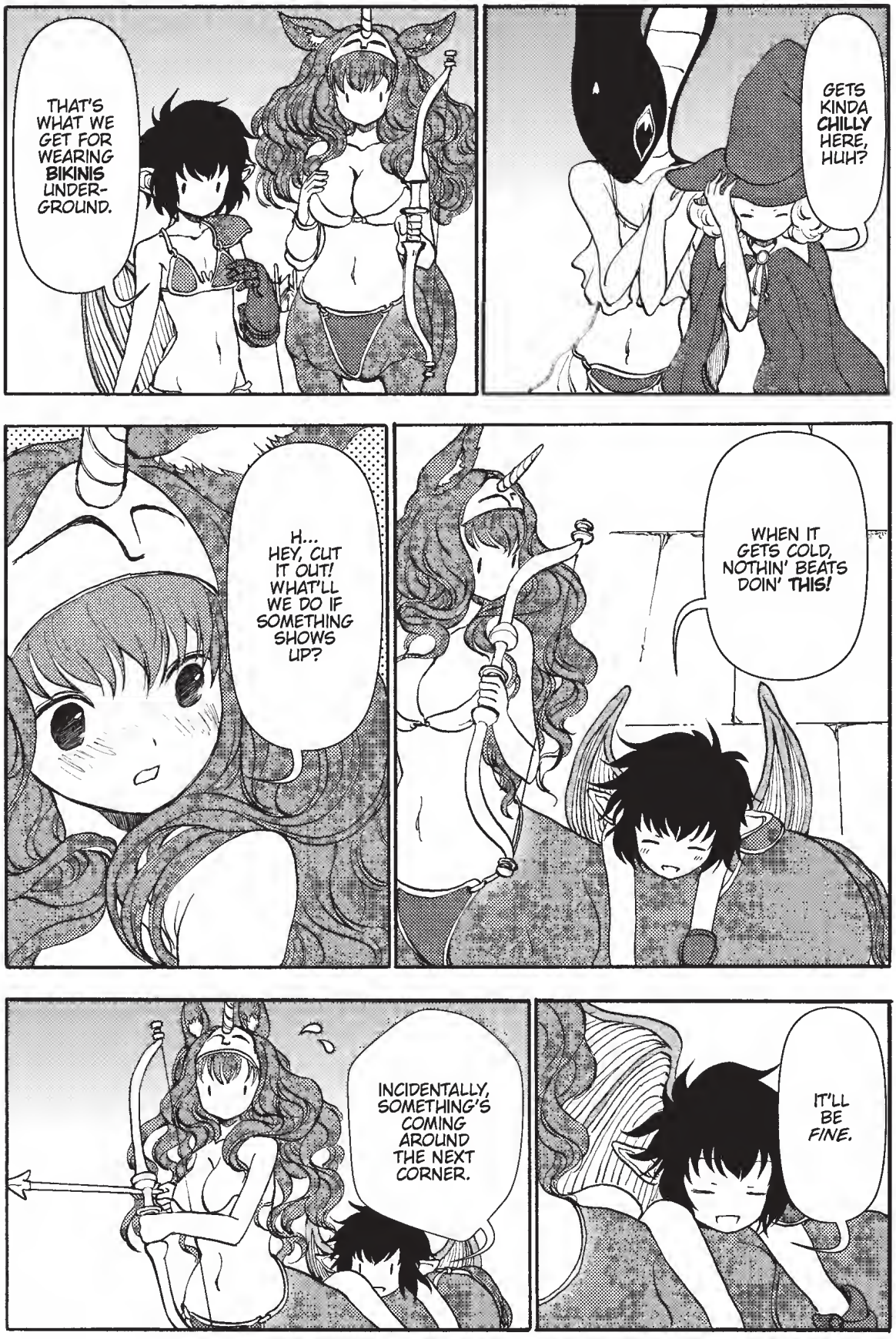
A CentaUr's Life

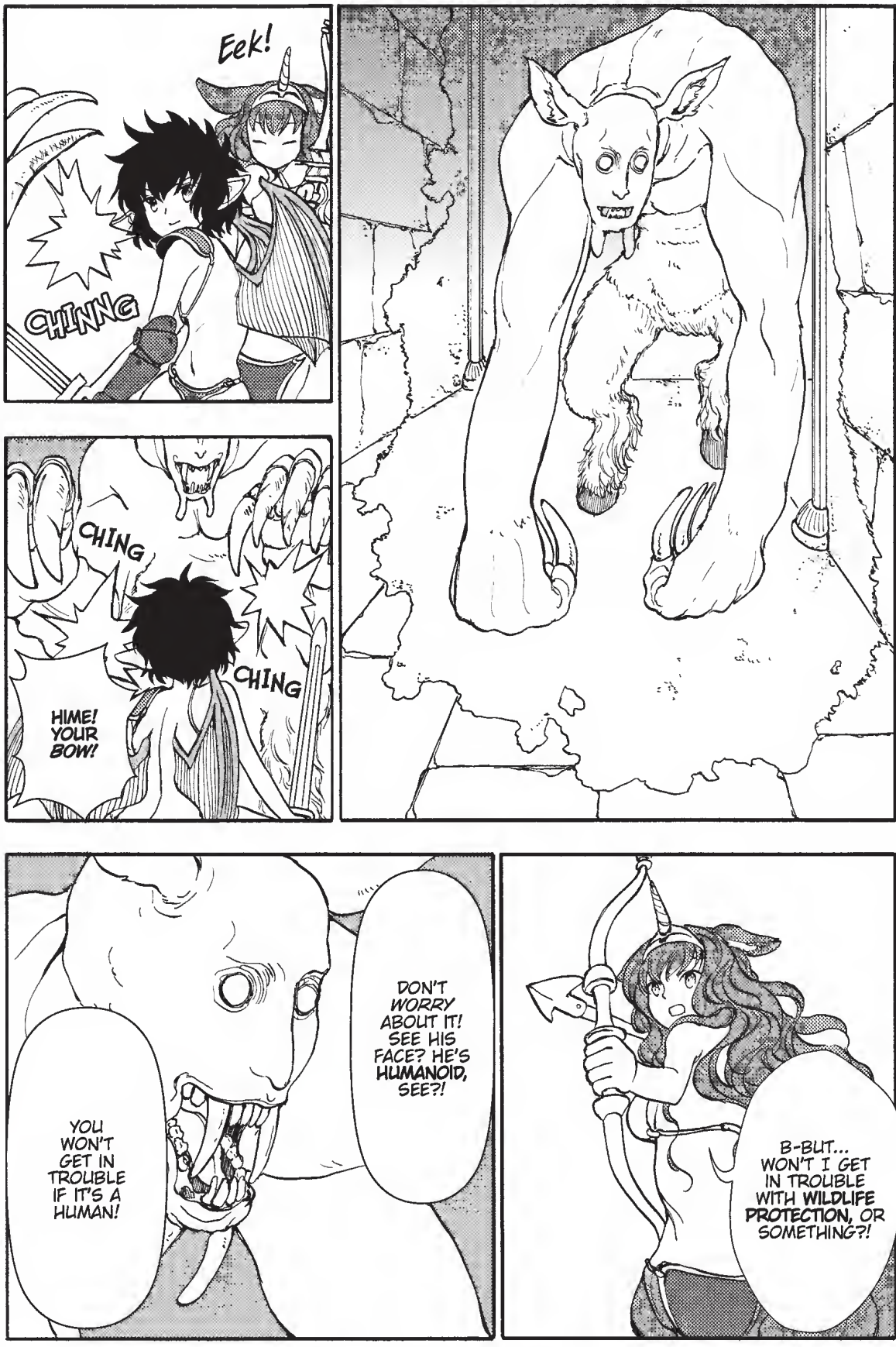
TRADITIONAL DRESS FROM AROUND THE WORLD (THE AZTECS)

IN THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY, THE MOST MENACING THING BROUGHT INTO THIS CENTRAL AMERICAN EMPIRE BY EUROPEAN CONQUERORS (CONQUISTADORS) WAS NEITHER METAL WEAPONS NOR FIREARMS, NOR HORSES, NOR CENTAUR SLAVES. IT WAS DISEASE. THE NATIVES, WHOSE BODIES HAD NO RESISTANCE TO THE FOREIGN PATHOGENS BROUGHT IN, WERE KILLED IN DROVES. IF THE ANTARCTICANS HAD NOT COME TO THEIR AID, THE *MĒXIHCAH* PEOPLE AND THEIR EMPIRE WOULD HAVE VANISHED COMPLETELY, LEAVING ONLY DEAD CITIES AND TEMPLES IN THEIR WAKE. NEVERTHELESS, THE EMPIRE DID ULTIMATELY COLLAPSE, AND THE FRAMEWORK OF THE AZTEC CIVILIZATION WAS USED TO FORM A UNION OF MULTIPLE TRIBES WHICH CLAIMED THE ALL BUT OBSOLETE EMPEROR AS ITS SYMBOLIC FIGUREHEAD. THE EMPEROR'S CLOTHING IS CHARACTERIZED BY THE LAVISH ADORNMENT OF GOLDEN DECORATIONS, AS WELL AS A CLOAK DECORATED WITH DESIGNS SOME THEORIZE ARE REFERENCES TO SECRET ANTARCTICAN KNOWLEDGE OTHERWISE UNKNOWN TO MAMMALIAN MANKIND. THESE ARTICLES, LIKE THE MANY MYSTERY-LADEN RITUALS OF THIS CIVILIZATION, ARE RARELY VIEWED BY THE EYES OF OUTSIDERS.

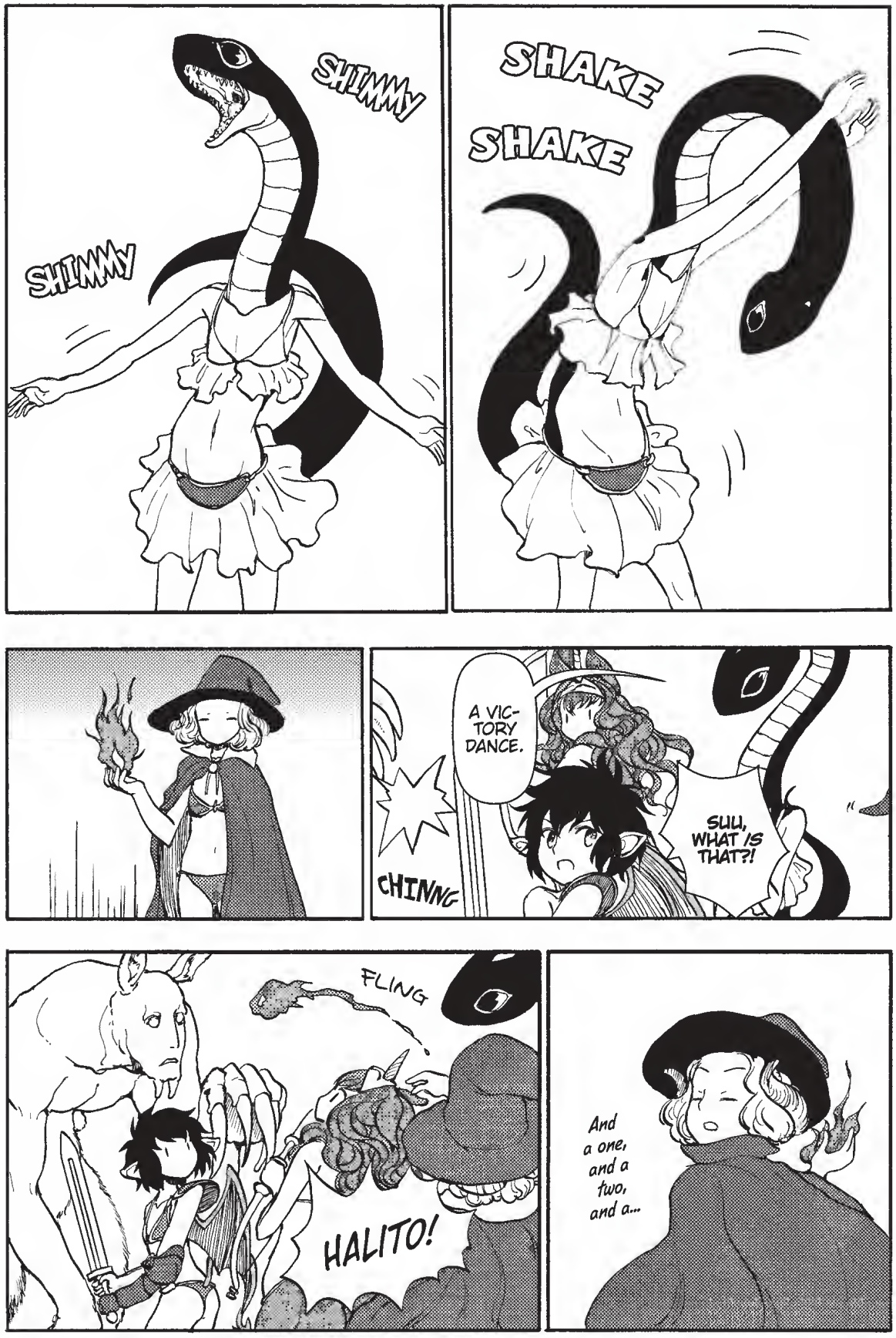

SQUEAK
SQUEAK
TAK


CHAPTER 50

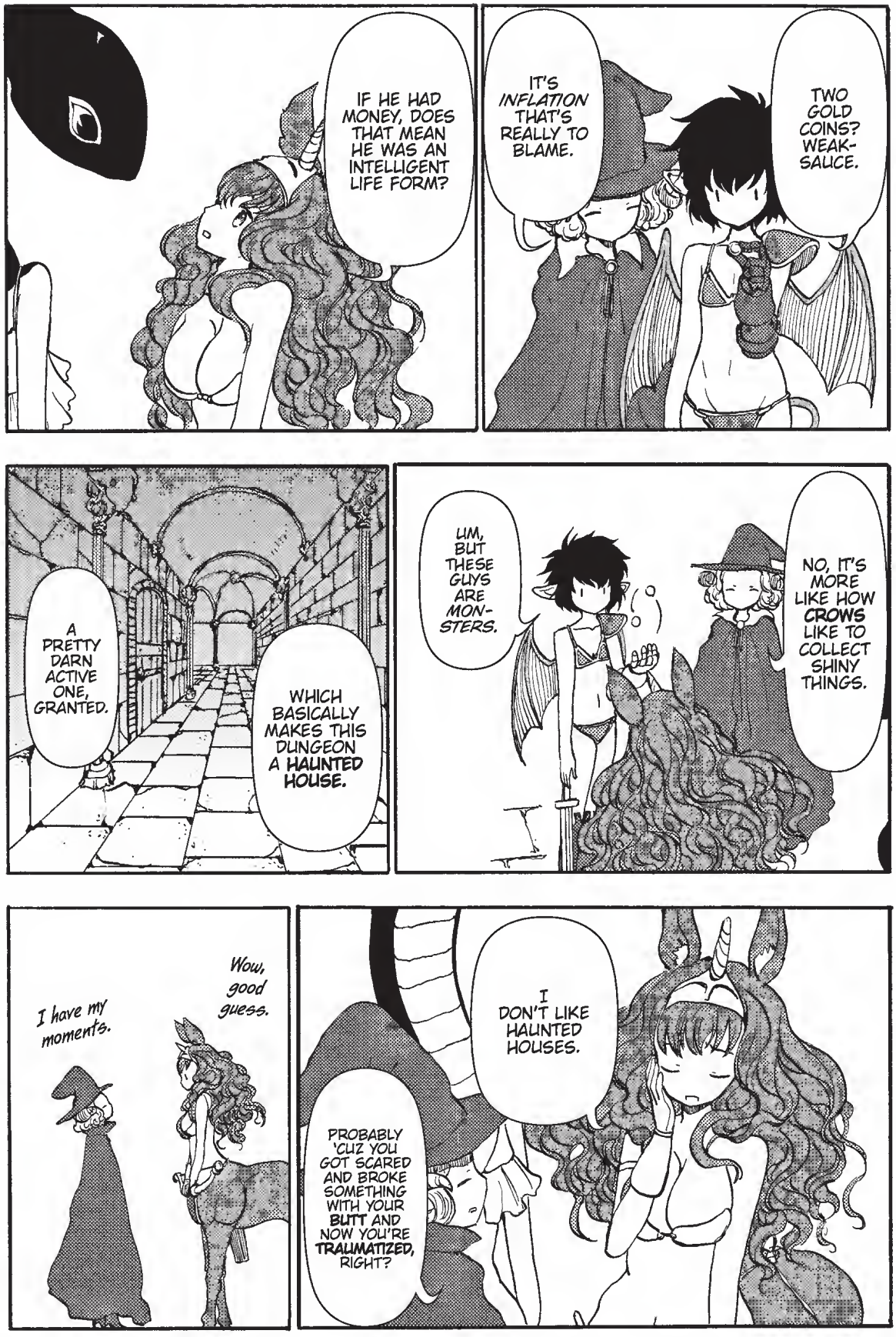

THAT'S WHAT WE GET FOR WEARING **BIKINIS** UNDER-GROUND.
GETS KINDA **CHILLY** HERE, HUH?
H... HEY, CUT IT OUT! WHAT'LL WE DO IF SOMETHING SHOWS UP?
WHEN IT GETS COLD, NOTHIN' BEATS DOIN' **THIS!**
INCIDENTALLY, SOMETHING'S COMING AROUND THE NEXT CORNER.
IT'LL BE *FINE.*

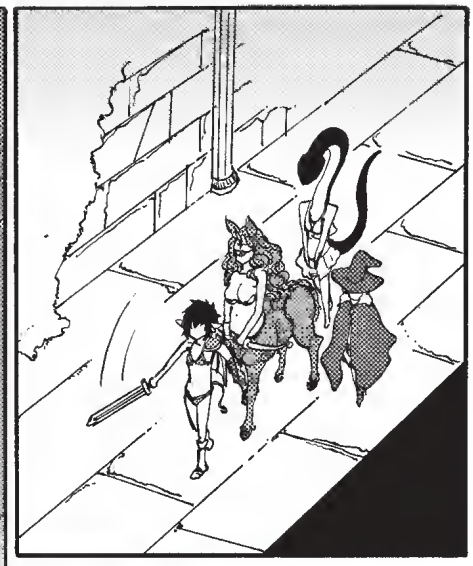

Eek!
CHINNG
CHING
CHING
HIME! YOUR BOW!
B-BUT... WON'T I GET IN TROUBLE WITH WILDLIFE PROTECTION, OR SOMETHING?!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT! SEE HIS FACE? HE'S HUMANOID, SEE?!
YOU WON'T GET IN TROUBLE IF IT'S A HUMAN!

HE DODGED ?!
HYAH!
Veggie
CHING CHING
JUST A SEC.
KYOKO, MAKE WITH THE MAGIC!
SCRTCH
SCRTCH

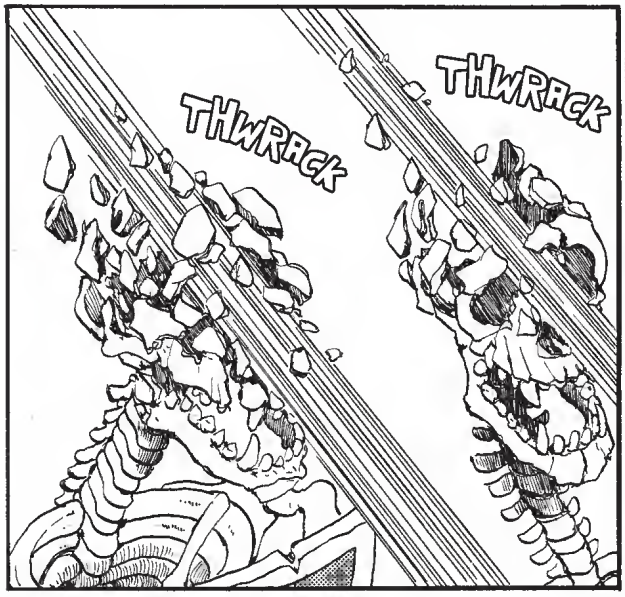

SHIMMY
SHIMMY
SHAKE
SHAKE
A VIC-TORY DANCE.
CHINNG
SUU, WHAT IS THAT?!
FLING
HALITO!
And a one, and a two, and a...

BWOOSH
TOE
SIZZLE
YOU DID IT!
SHUK SHUK
WELP, SHALL WE CARVE 'IM UP?


IF HE HAD MONEY, DOES THAT MEAN HE WAS AN INTELLIGENT LIFE FORM?
IT'S *INFLATION* THAT'S REALLY TO BLAME.
TWO GOLD COINS? WEAK-SAUCE.
A PRETTY DARN ACTIVE ONE, GRANTED.
WHICH BASICALLY MAKES THIS DUNGEON A **HAUNTED HOUSE.**
UM, BUT THESE GUYS ARE *MON-STERS.*
NO, IT'S MORE LIKE HOW **CROWS** LIKE TO COLLECT SHINY THINGS.
I have my moments.
Wow, good guess.
PROBABLY 'CUZ YOU GOT SCARED AND BROKE SOMETHING WITH YOUR **BUTT** AND NOW YOU'RE **TRAUMATIZED,** RIGHT?
I DON'T LIKE HAUNTED HOUSES.

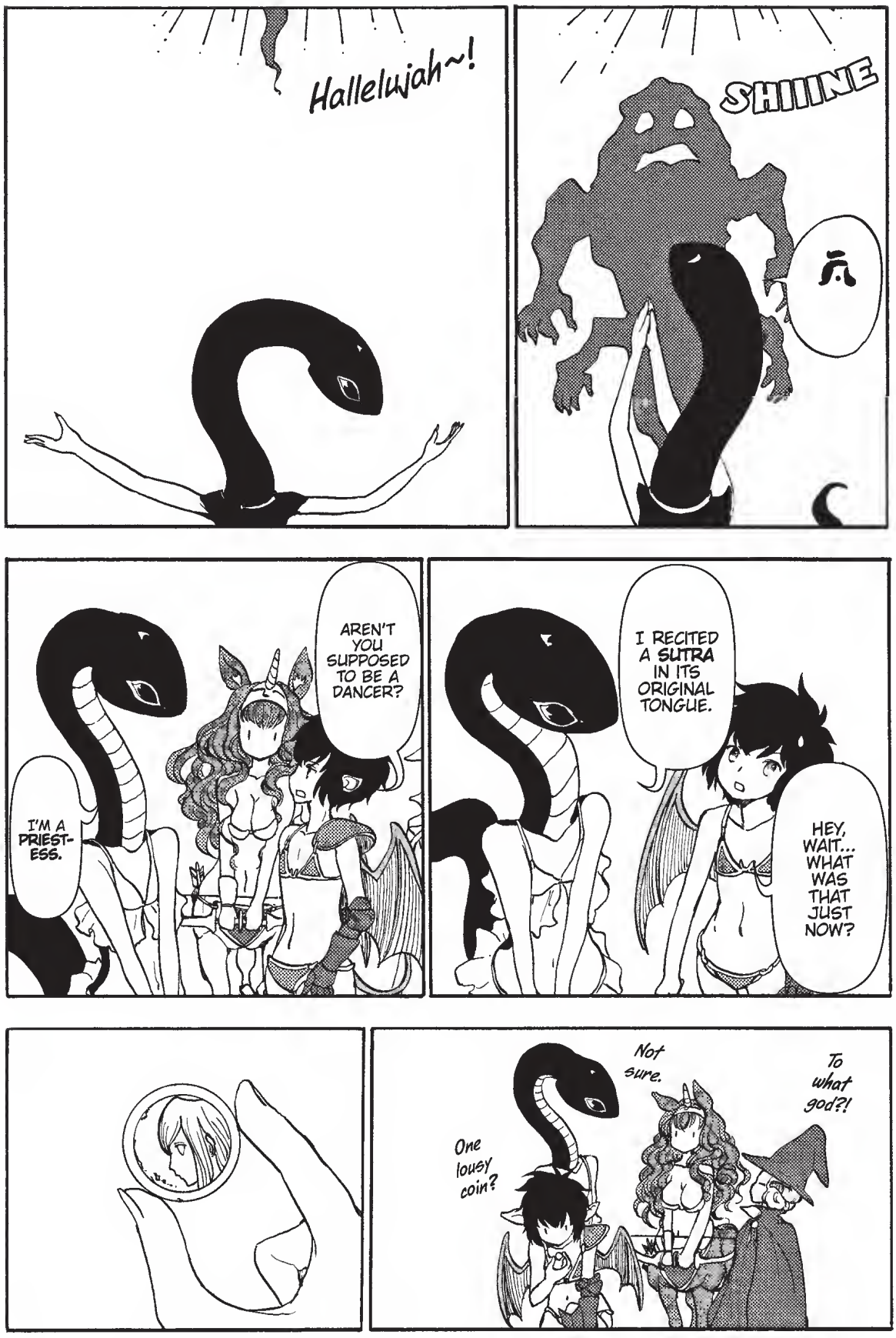


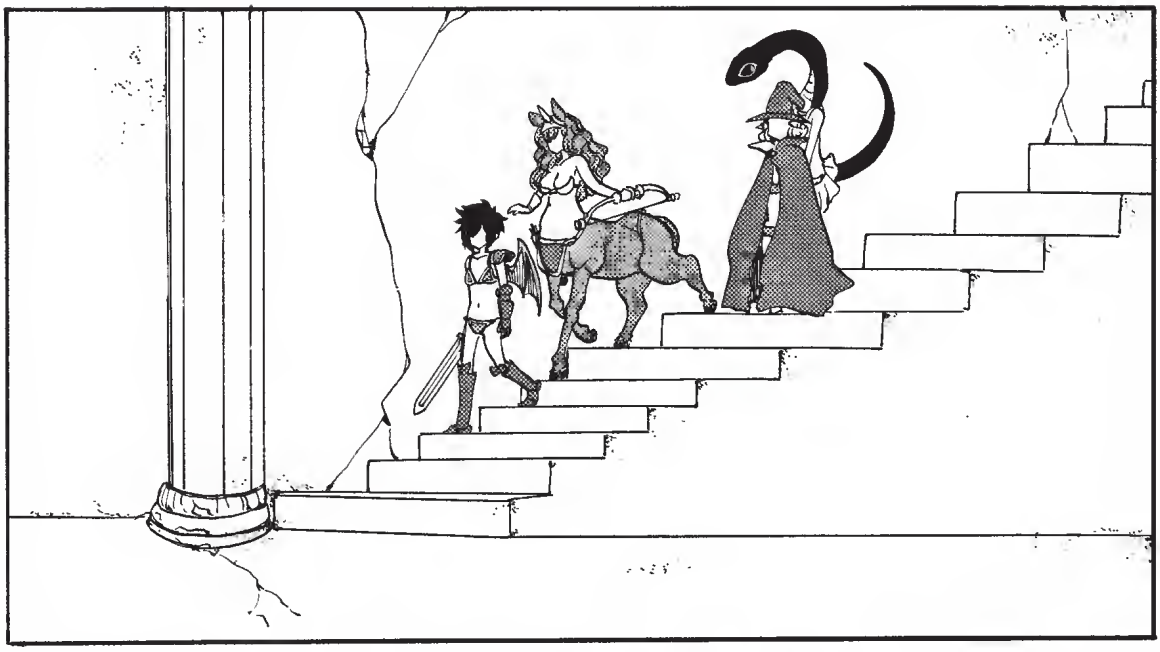
HERE COME MORE OF 'EM!

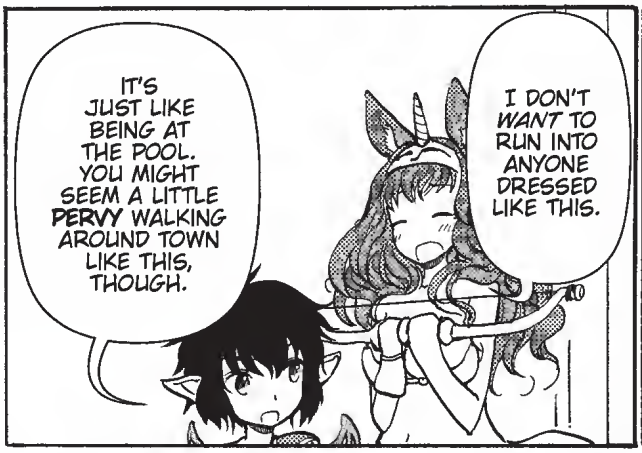

THWRACK
THWRACK

MM!
YOU CAN SHOOT THESE GUYS, RIGHT?

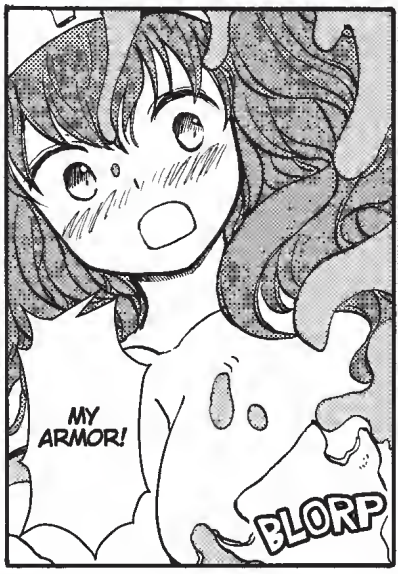
SWOOSH
ZWIP
NWHP
WHOA.
KYOKO! MAGIC!
GIMME A SEC! JEEZ!
CLAP
CLAP

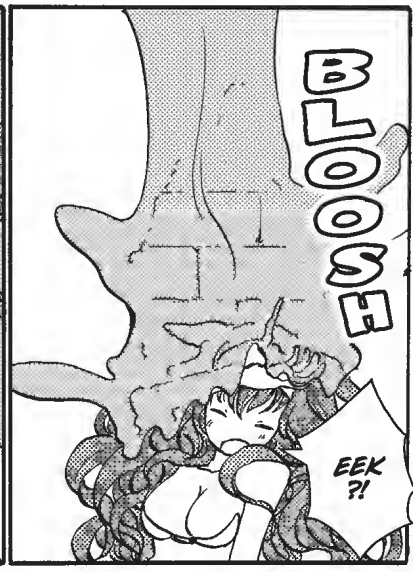

Hallelujah~!
SHIIINE
AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE A DANCER?
I'M A PRIEST-ESS.
I RECITED A SUTRA IN ITS ORIGINAL TONGUE.
HEY, WAIT... WHAT WAS THAT JUST NOW?
Not sure.
To what god?!
One lousy coin?

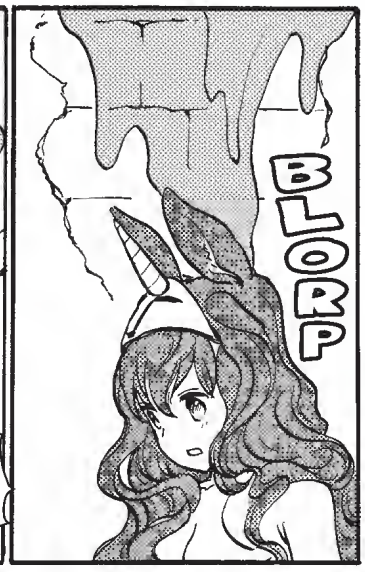



I DON'T WANT TO RUN INTO ANYONE DRESSED LIKE THIS.
IT'S JUST LIKE BEING AT THE POOL. YOU MIGHT SEEM A LITTLE PERVY WALKING AROUND TOWN LIKE THIS, THOUGH.

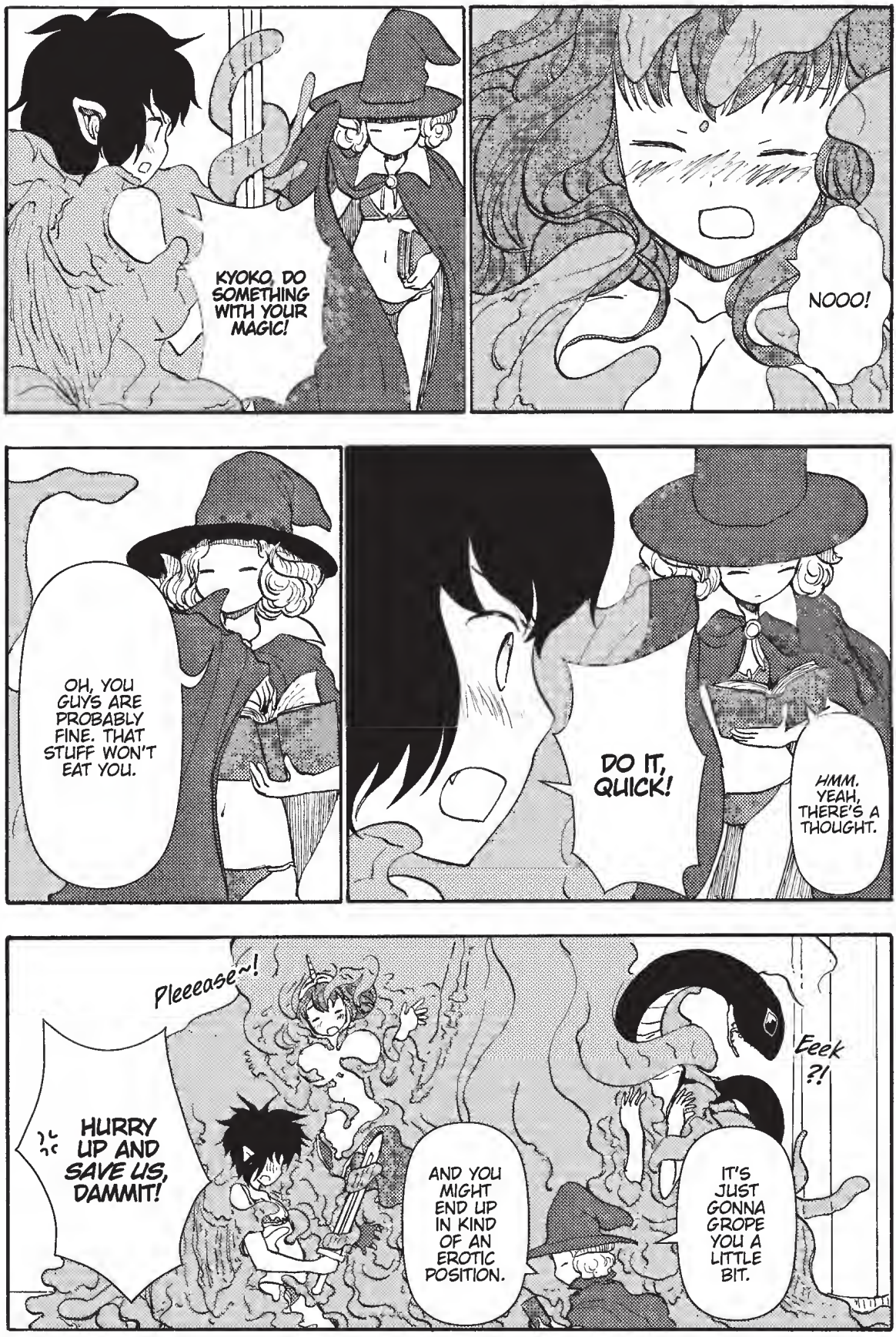
WE SURE AREN'T RUNNING INTO ANYBODY, THOUGH.
WE'VE GOTTEN PRETTY DEEP BY NOW.

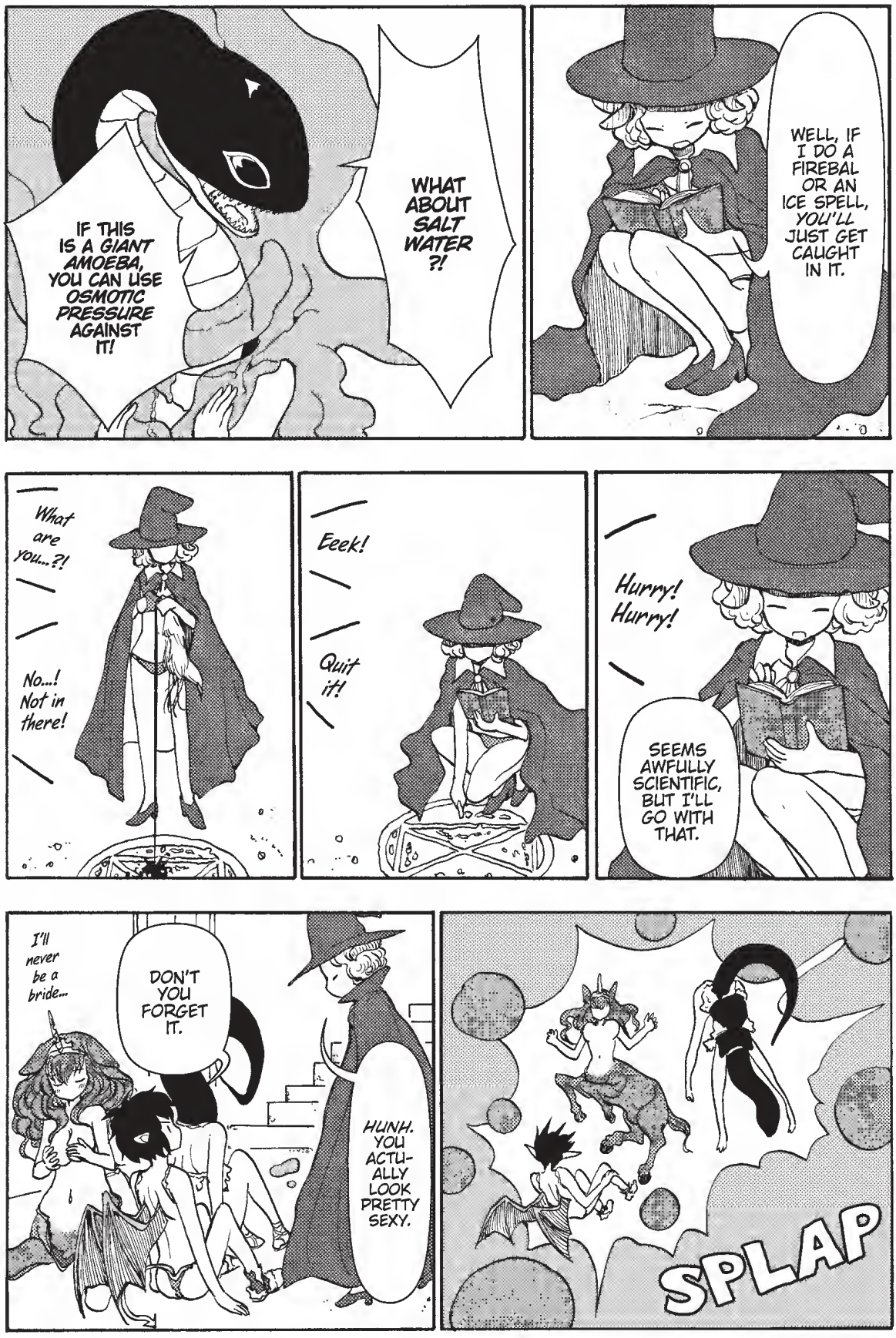

MY ARMOR!
BLORP

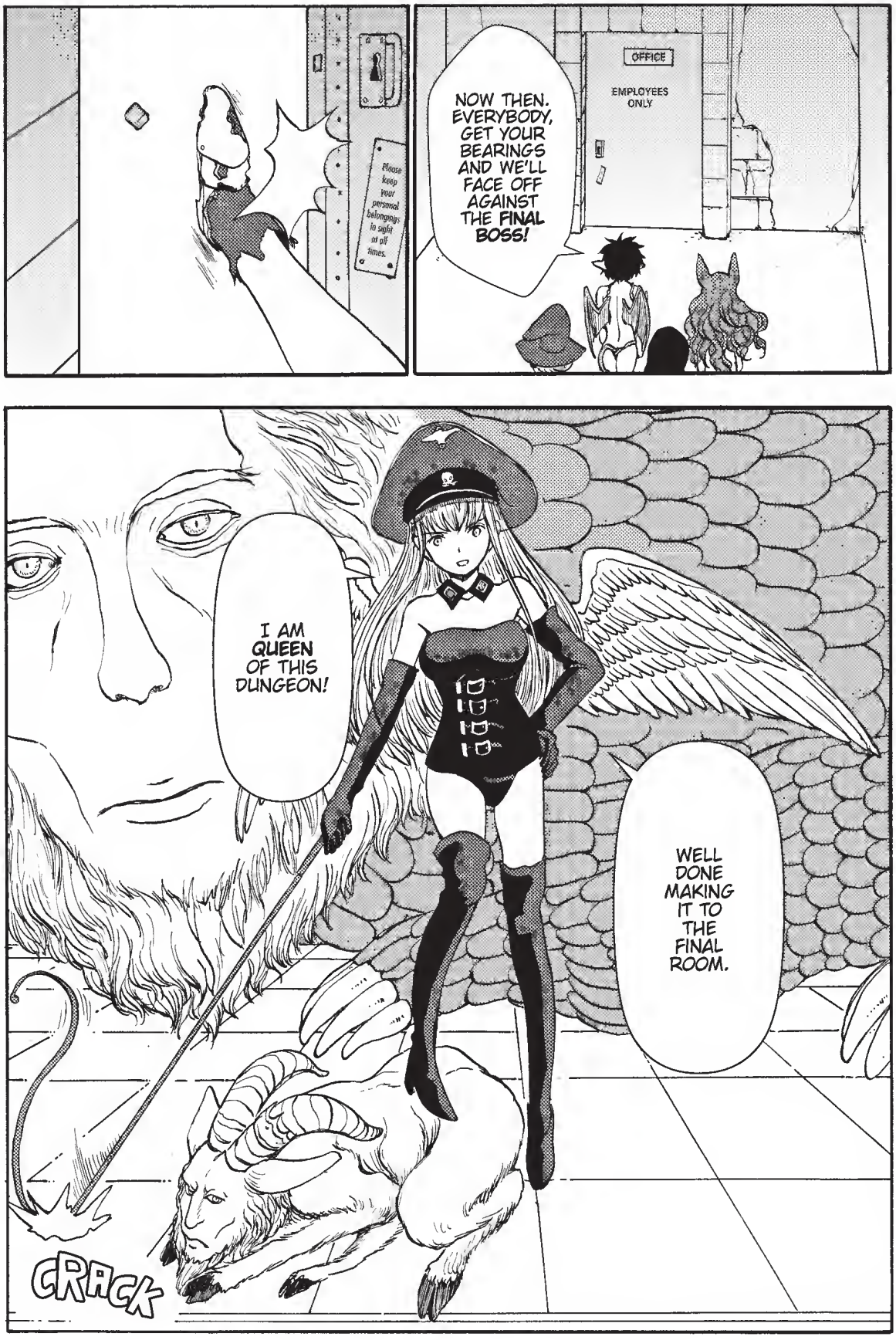

BLOOSH
EEK ?!


BLORP

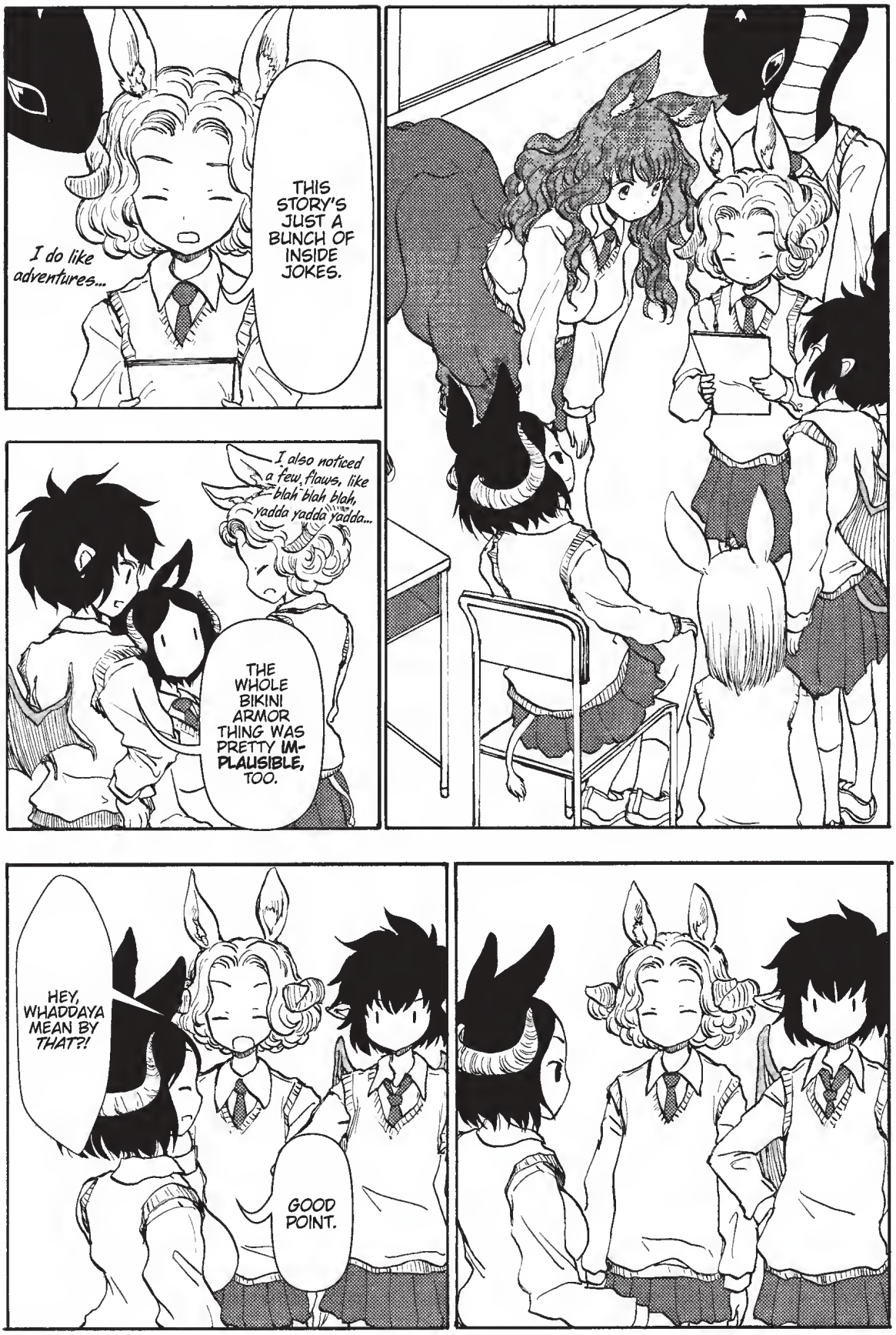
HEY, HEY, HEY.


KYOKO, DO SOMETHING WITH YOUR MAGIC!
NOOO!
OH, YOU GUYS ARE PROBABLY FINE. THAT STUFF WON'T EAT YOU.
DO IT, QUICK!
HMM. YEAH, THERE'S A THOUGHT.
Pleeease~!
HURRY UP AND SAVE US, DAMMIT!
AND YOU MIGHT END UP IN KIND OF AN EROTIC POSITION.
Eeek ?!
IT'S JUST GONNA GROPE YOU A LITTLE BIT.


IF THIS IS A GIANT AMOEBA, YOU CAN USE OSMOTIC PRESSURE AGAINST IT!
WHAT ABOUT SALT WATER ?!
WELL, IF I DO A FIREBAL OR AN ICE SPELL, YOU'LL JUST GET CAUGHT IN IT.
What are you...?!
No...! Not in there!
Eeek!
Quit it!
Hurry! Hurry!
SEEMS AWFULLY SCIENTIFIC, BUT I'LL GO WITH THAT.
I'll never be a bride...
DON'T YOU FORGET IT.
HUNH. YOU ACTU-ALLY LOOK PRETTY SEXY.
SPLAP


Please keep your personal belongings in sight at all times.
OFFICE
EMPLOYEES ONLY
NOW THEN. EVERYBODY, GET YOUR BEARINGS AND WE'LL FACE OFF AGAINST THE FINAL BOSS!
I AM QUEEN OF THIS DUNGEON!
WELL DONE MAKING IT TO THE FINAL ROOM.
CRACK

ARE YOU READY? DEFEATING ME WILL TAKE MORE THAN SIMPLY BESTING ME IN COMBAT.
TO TRULY CONQUER THIS DUNGEON, YOU'LL HAVE TO UNCOVER THE SECRET OF THE QUEEN!
SILENCE!
THAT LOOK SUITS YOU JUST A LITTLE TOO WELL, YOUR HIGH-NESS.
...IS IT THAT YOU'RE STUFFING YOUR BRA?
"SECRET," EH? BY ANY CHANCE...
CRUMBLE
CRUMBLE
WAH!
TAK

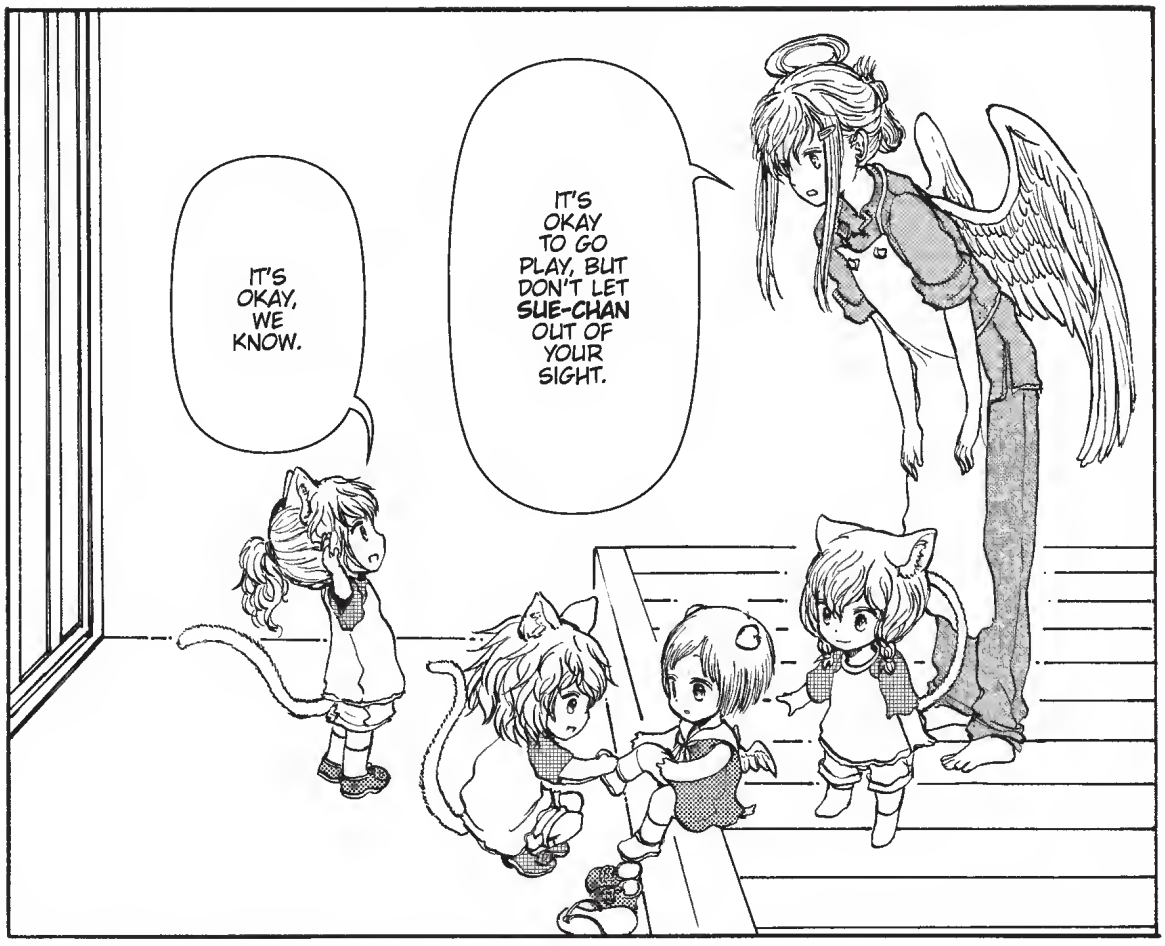

I do like adventures...
THIS STORY'S JUST A BUNCH OF INSIDE JOKES.
I also noticed a few flaws, like blah blah blah, yadda yadda yadda...
THE WHOLE BIKINI ARMOR THING WAS PRETTY IM-PLAUSIBLE, TOO.
HEY, WHADDAYA MEAN BY THAT?!
GOOD POINT.

A CentaUr's Life

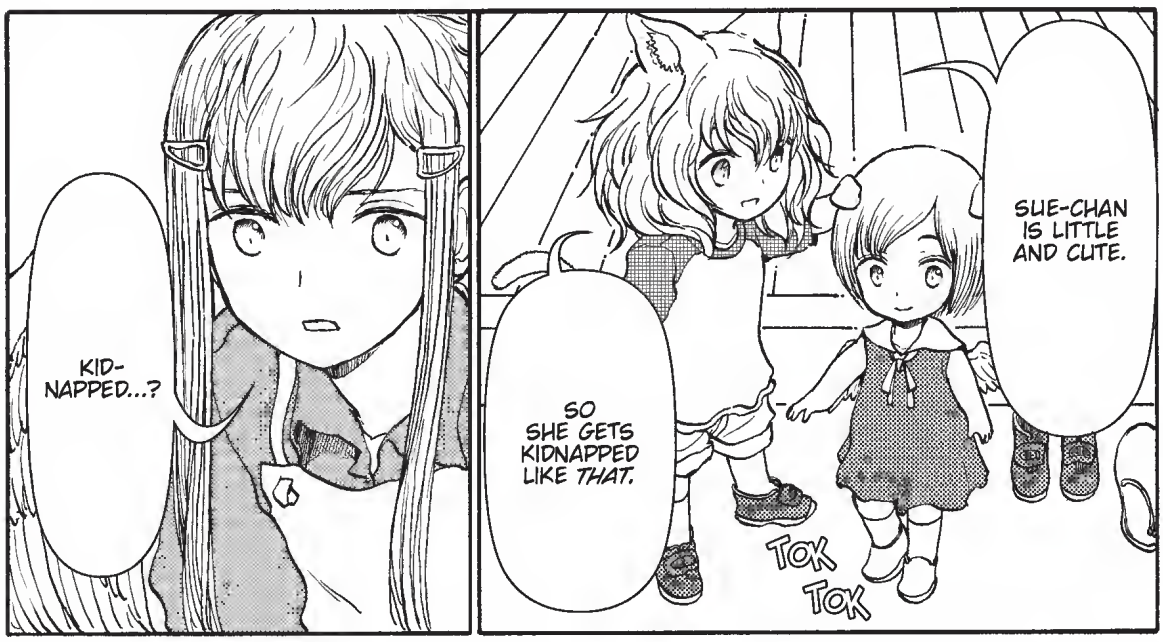
TRADITIONAL DRESS FROM AROUND THE WORLD (JAPAN)

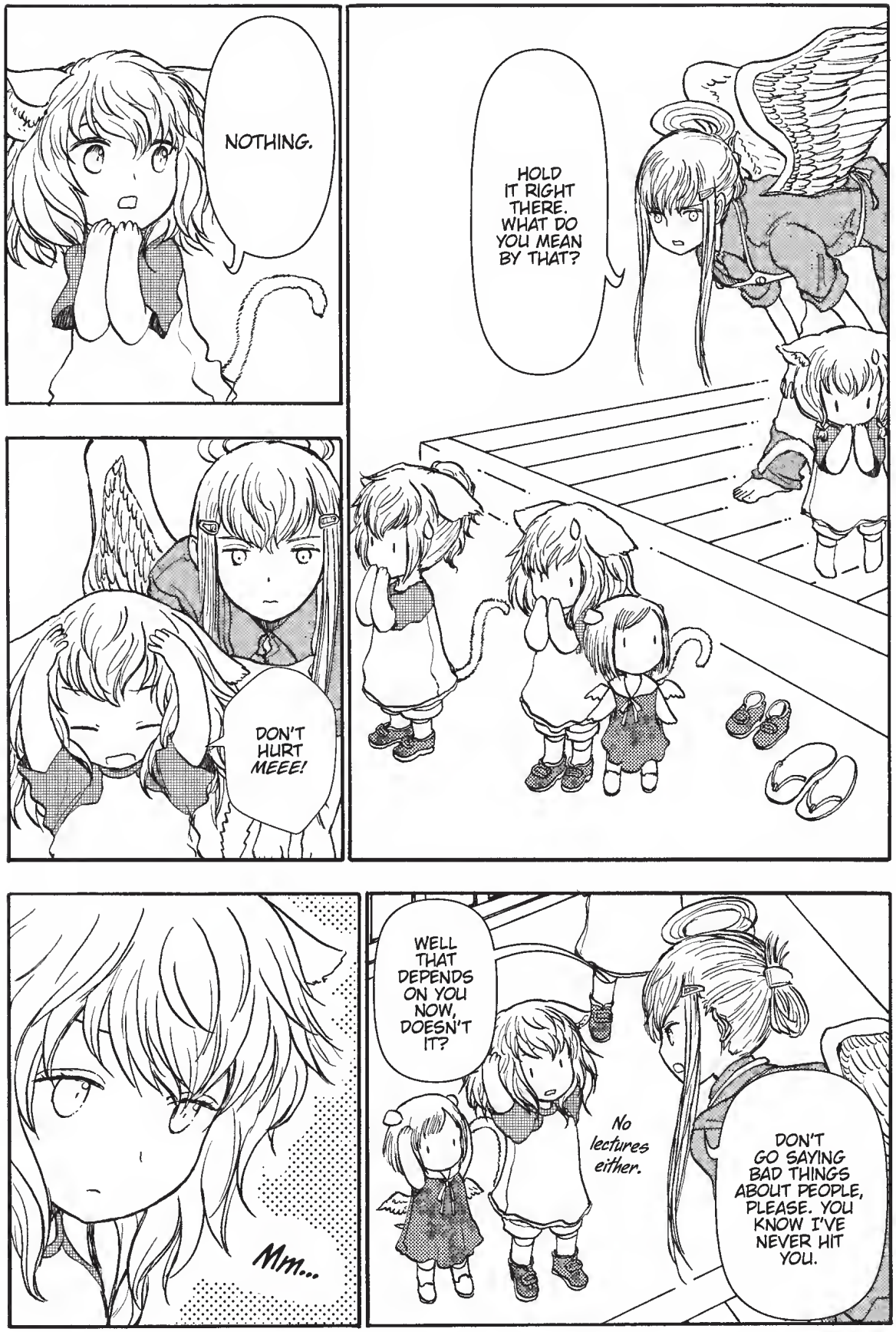
GARMENTS SUCH AS THE *ETCHU FUNDOSHI* AND *ROKUSHAKU FUNDOSHI* (DIFFERENT STYLES OF LOINCLOTH) ARE THOUGHT TO BE AGE-OLD, AND INDEED THERE WERE SUCH GARMENTS IN ANCIENT TIMES. HOWEVER, IT WAS NOT UNTIL RELATIVELY RECENTLY THAT THEY BECAME WIDESPREAD AMONGST THE COMMON MAN. CLOTH WAS ONCE AN EXTRAVAGANT ITEM--SO MUCH SO THAT TO WEAR IT SOMEWHERE UNSEEN TO PROTECT ONLY ONE SPECIFIC PART OF THE BODY WAS A PRACTICE RESERVED FOR THE WELL-TO-DO.

ANOTHER KNOWN FALLACY IS THAT MERFOLK OFTEN WORE *FUNDOSHI*. IN FACT, IT IS LIKELY THAT THE PRACTICE OF WEARING CLOTHES WAS NOT COMMON AMONGST MERFOLK UNTIL THE ADVENT OF BATHING SUITS MADE WITH SYNTHETIC FIBERS. WHEN INTERACTING WITH OTHER, LAND-BASED RACES, MERFOLK DO MAKE AN EFFORT TO WEAR APPROPRIATE CLOTHING, AND LAND-BASED MERFOLK WHO LIVE AMONGST OTHER RACES DAY-TO-DAY DO WEAR REGULAR CLOTHES AS A DAILY HABIT. IN EITHER CASE, FEMALE MERFOLK TYPICALLY DRESS APPROPRIATELY IN PUBLIC--IT'S UNLIKELY THAT ONE WOULD REVEAL HERSELF IN JUST HER UNDERWEAR. HENCE, ILLUSTRATIONS LIKE THE ONE BELOW ARE LIKELY JUST DESIGNED TO BE SUGGESTIVE.

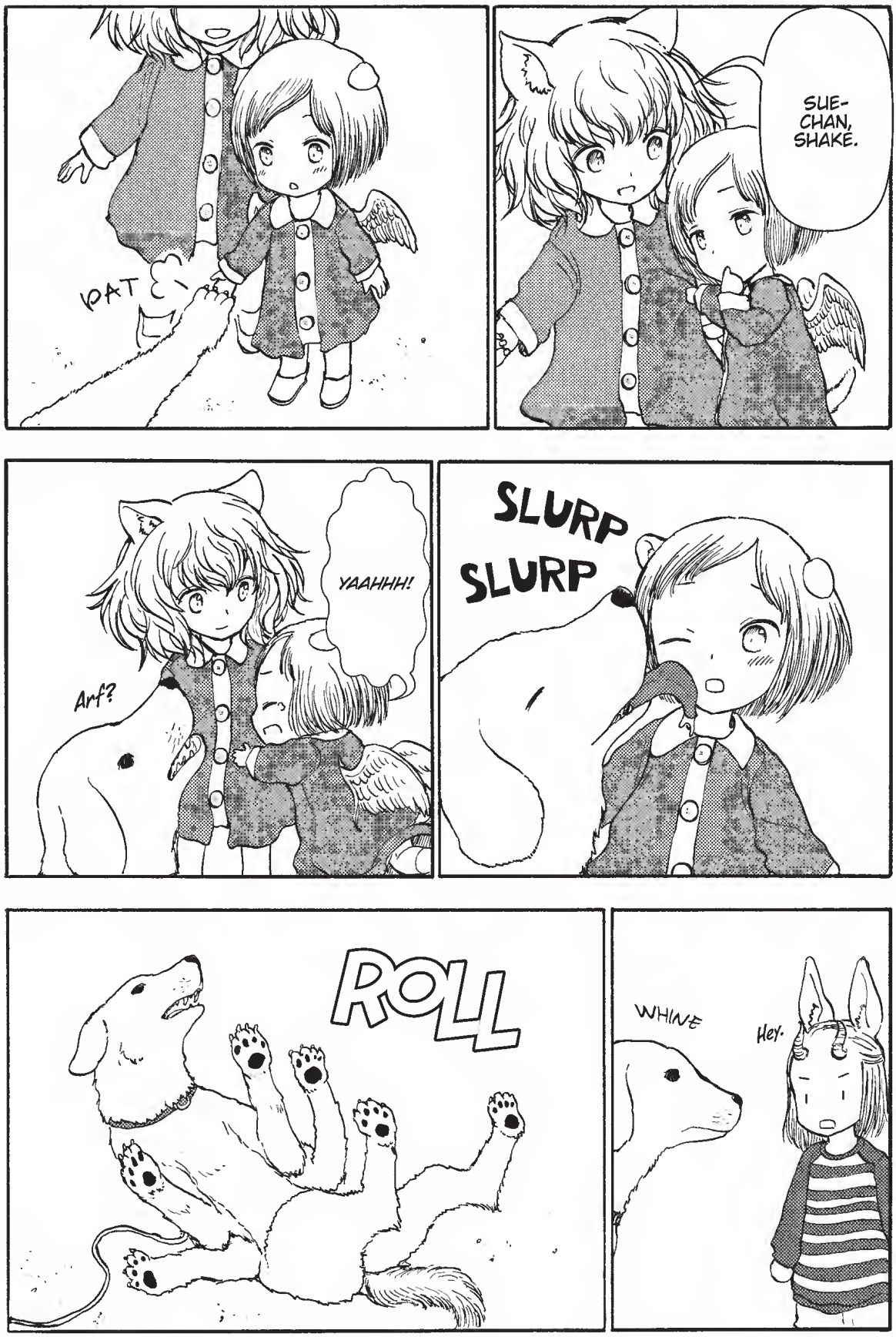

IT'S OKAY TO GO PLAY, BUT DON'T LET SUE-CHAN OUT OF YOUR SIGHT.
IT'S OKAY, WE KNOW.

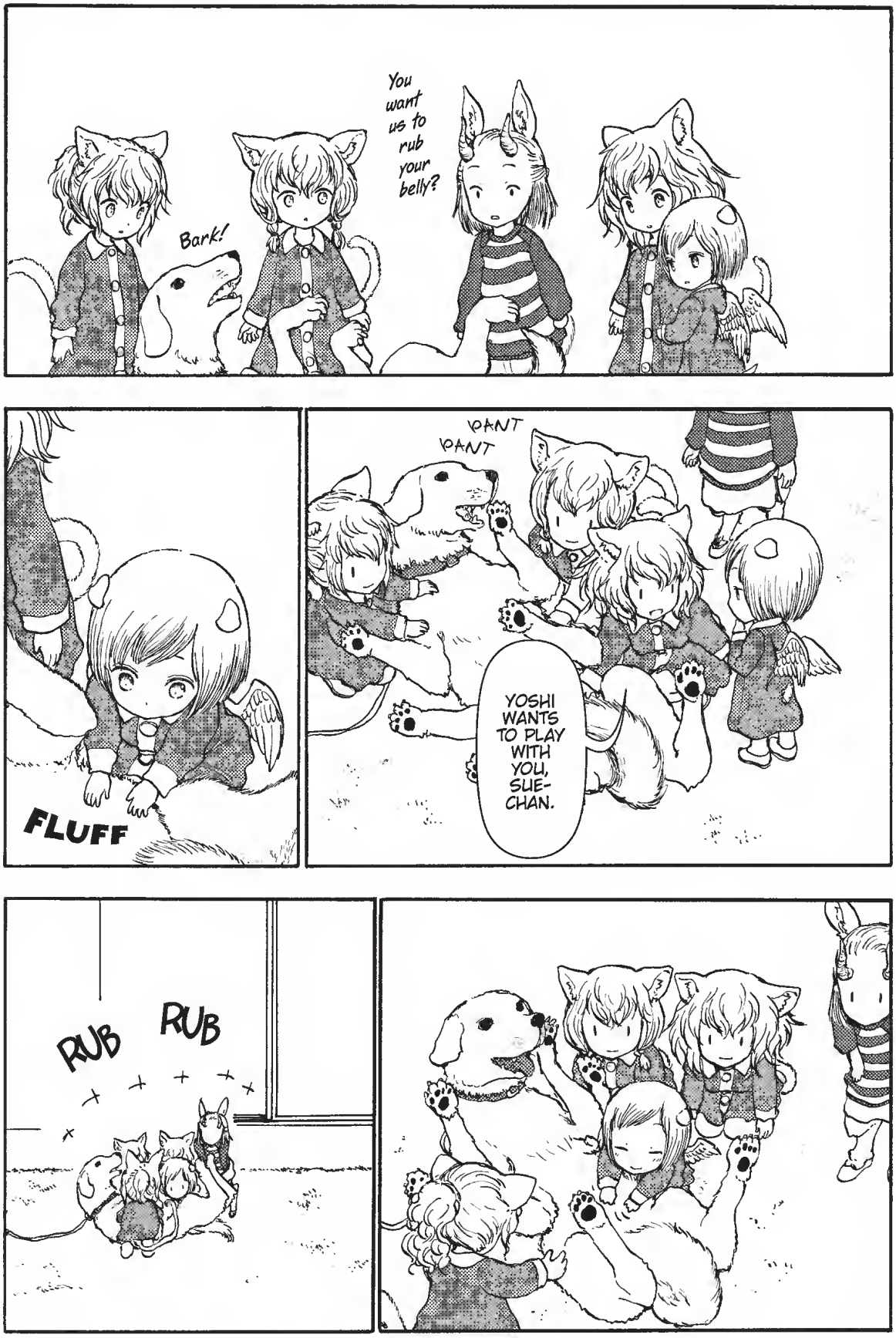
CHAPTER 51


KID-NAPPED...?
SO SHE GETS KIDNAPPED LIKE THAT.
TOK TOK
SUE-CHAN IS LITTLE AND CUTE.

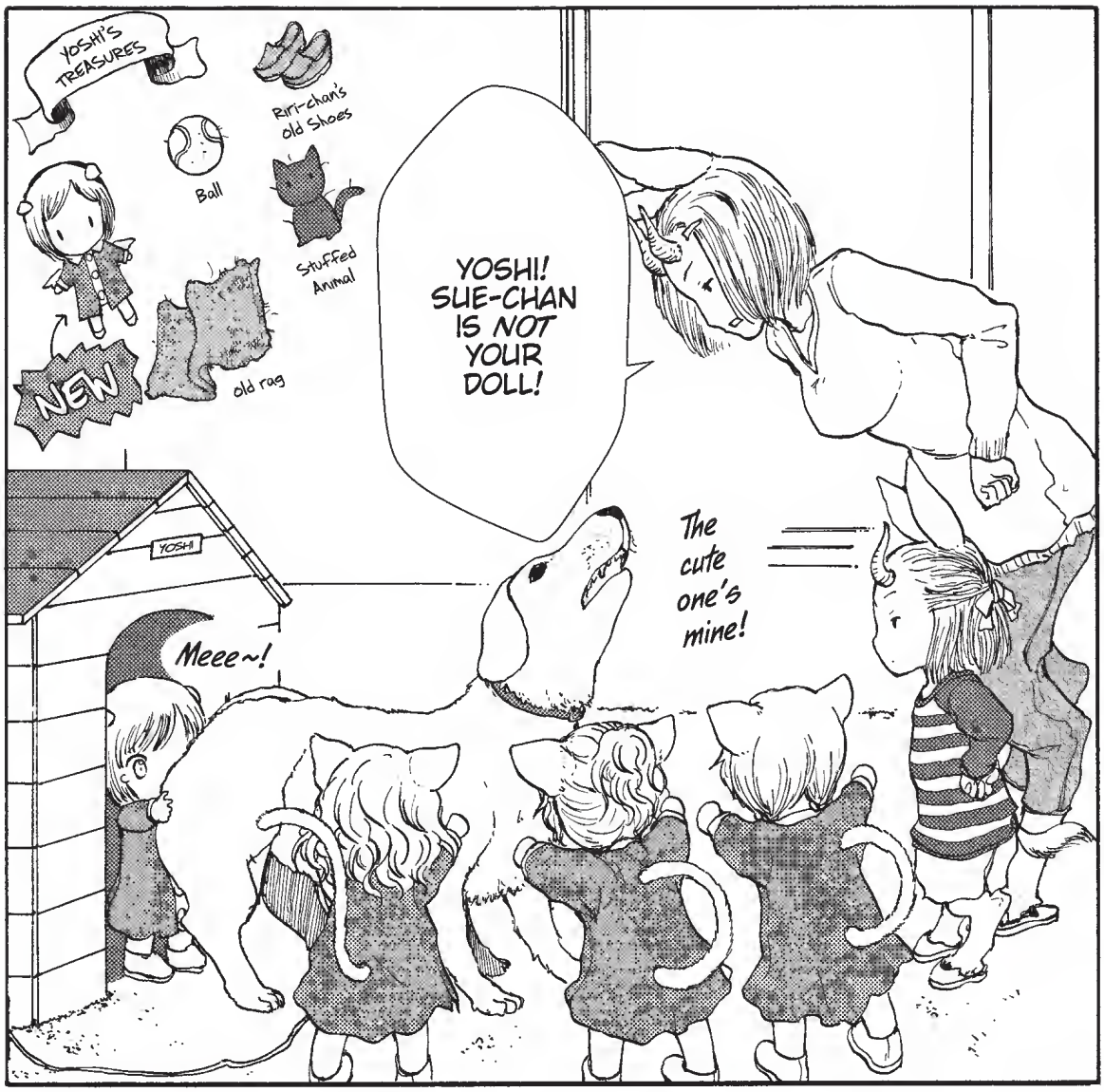

NOTHING.
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE. WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
DON'T HURT MEEE!
Mm...
WELL THAT DEPENDS ON YOU NOW, DOESN'T IT?
No lectures either.
DON'T GO SAYING BAD THINGS ABOUT PEOPLE, PLEASE. YOU KNOW I'VE NEVER HIT YOU.

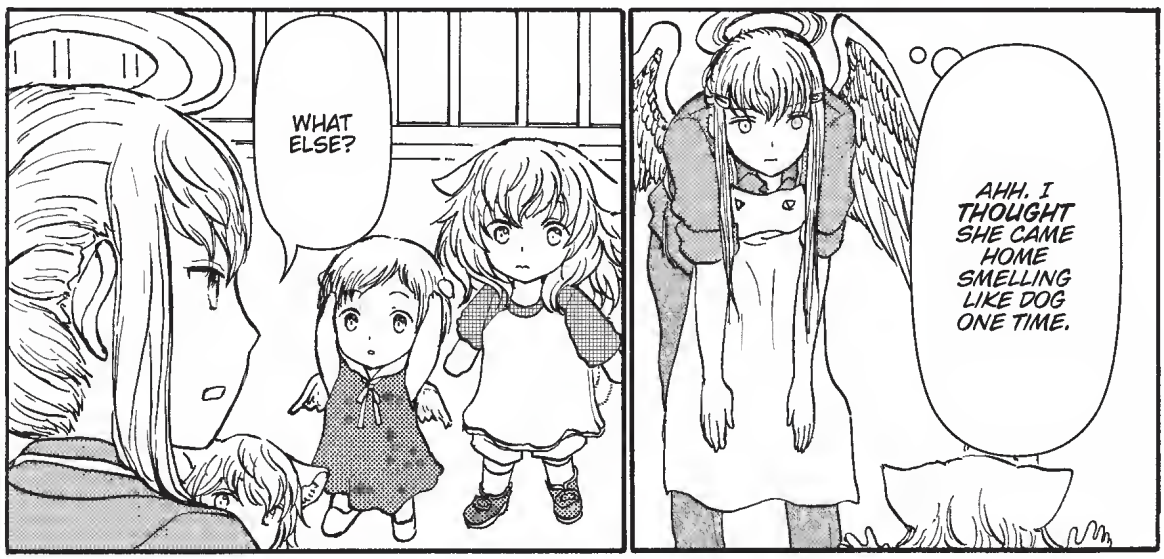
Riri-chan's House
Meee!
Arf!
PANT
PANT
DON'T WORRY, YOSHI IS A GOOD DOGGIE.

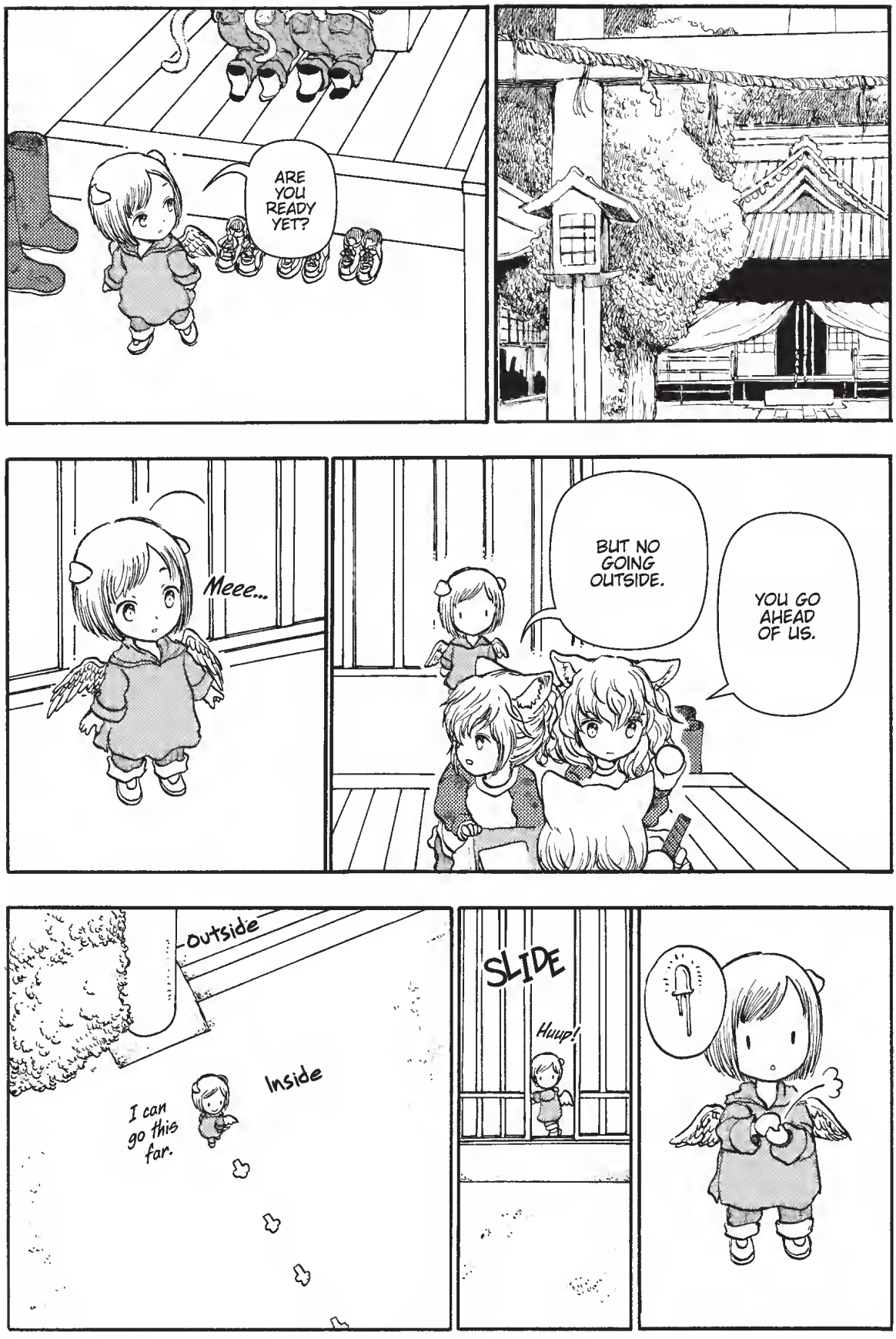

PAT
SUE-CHAN, SHAKE.
YAAHHH!
Arf?
SLURP SLURP
ROLL
WHINE
Hey.

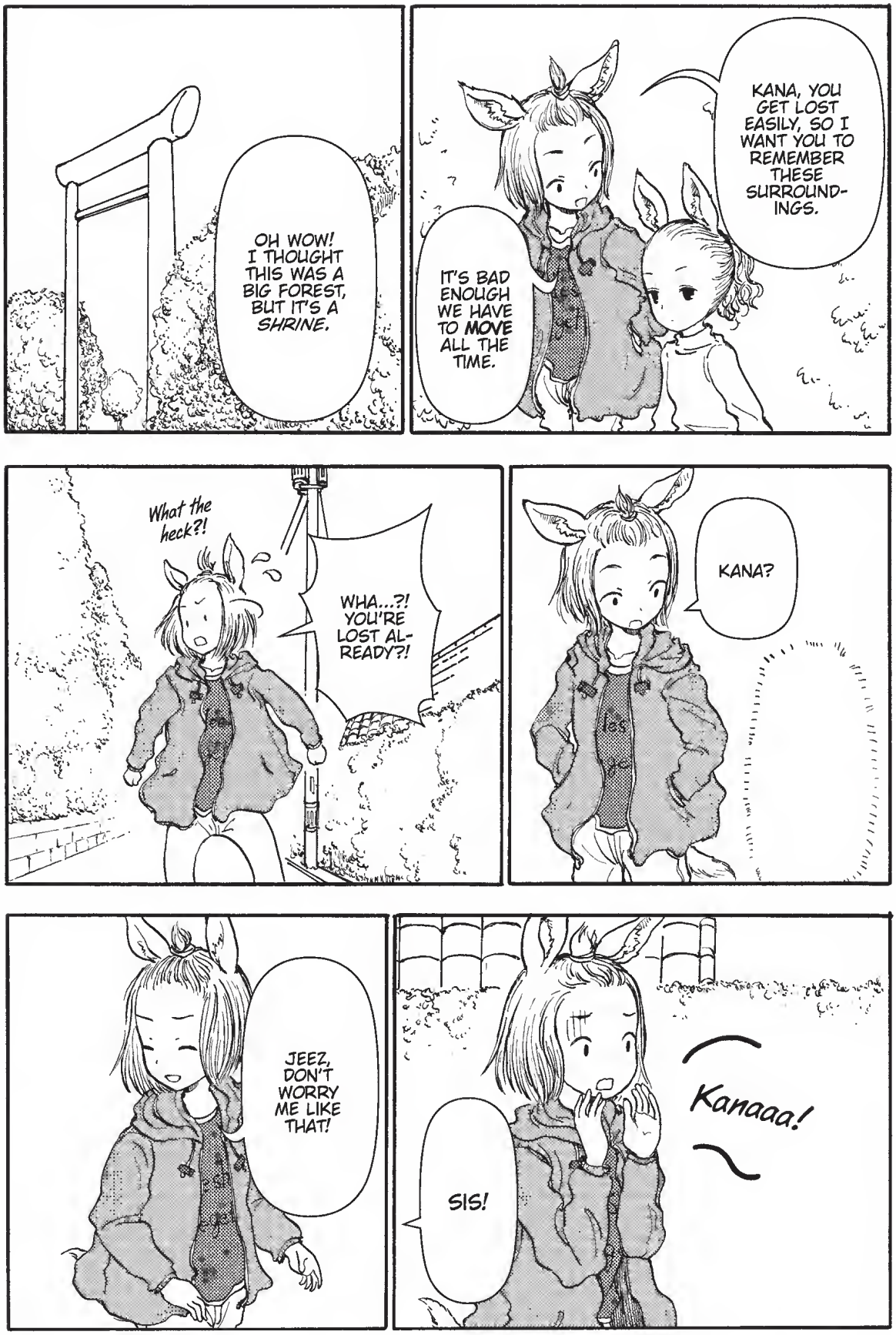

You want us to rub your belly?
Bark!
FLUFF
PANT
PANT
YOSHI WANTS TO PLAY WITH YOU, SUE-CHAN.
RUB
RUB

Okay, wanna go to my room?
Arf?! (You're done already?!)
Nyah- nyah...
Nyah?
YOSHI
Sissieee~!

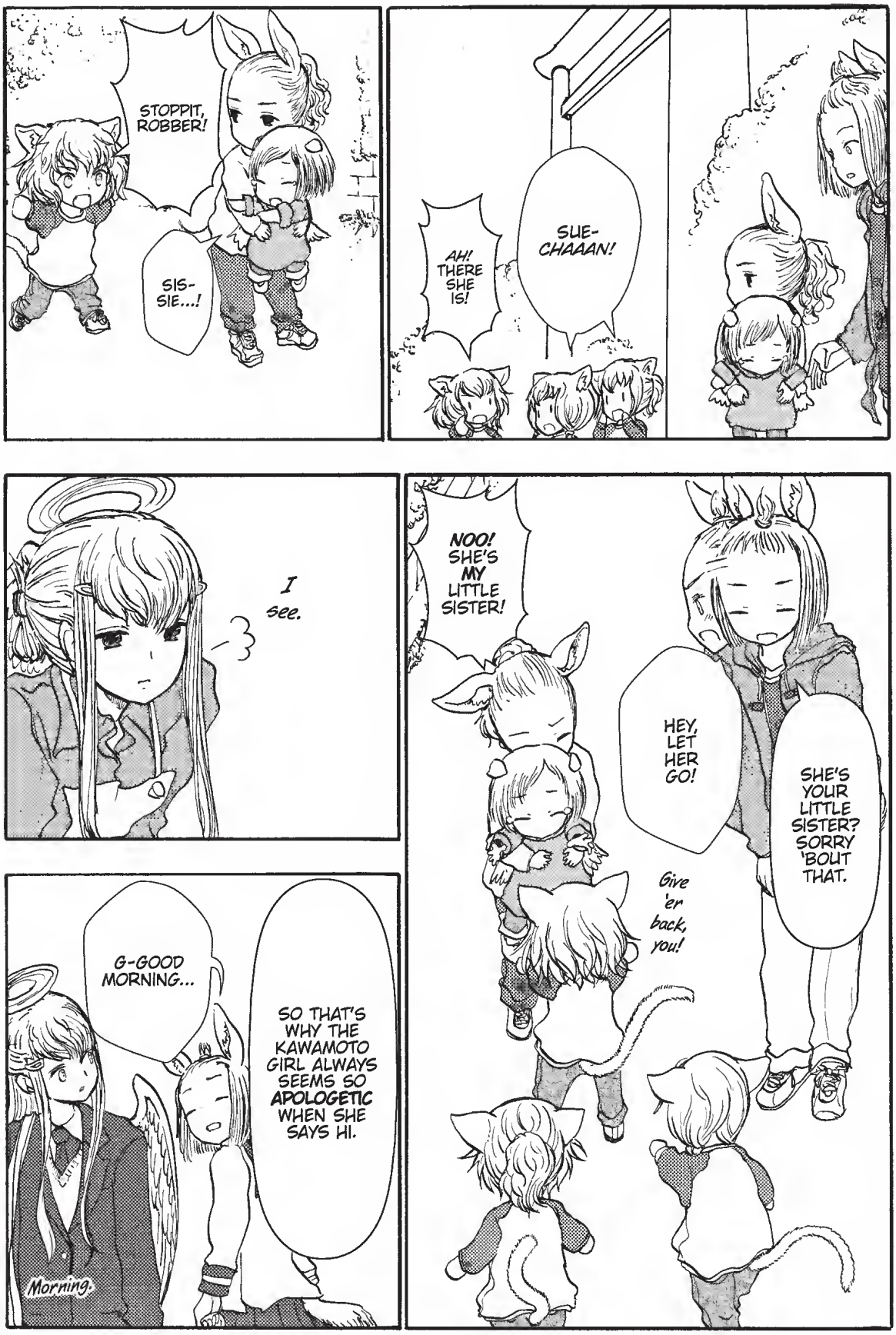

YOSHI'S TREASURES
Riri-chan's old shoes
Ball
Stuffed Animal
NEW
old rag
YOSHI
YOSHI! SUE-CHAN IS NOT YOUR DOLL!
The cute one's mine!
Meee~!

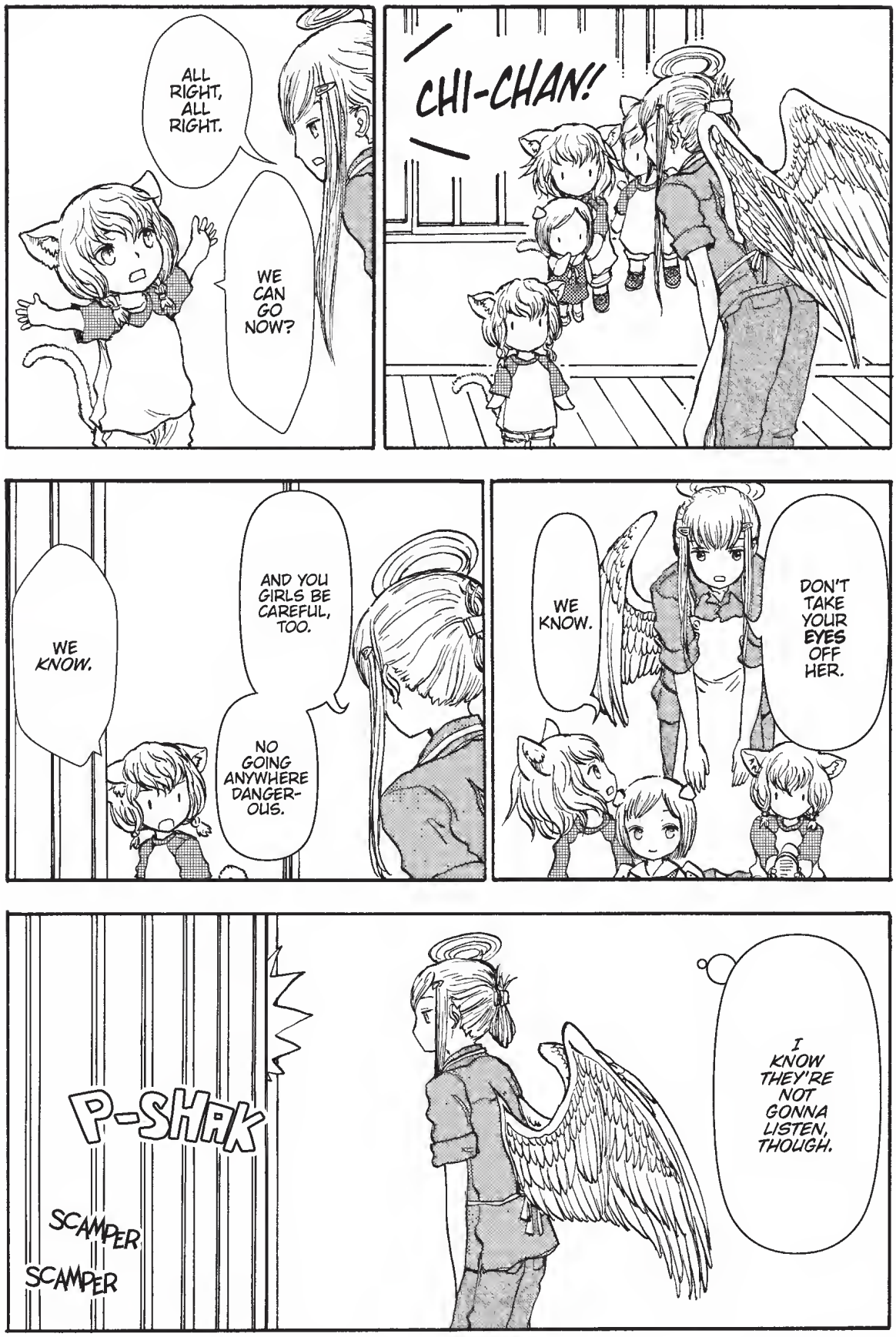

WHAT ELSE?
AHH. I THOUGHT SHE CAME HOME SMELLING LIKE DOG ONE TIME.


ARE YOU READY YET?
Meee...
BUT NO GOING OUTSIDE.
YOU GO AHEAD OF US.
outside
Inside
I can go this far.
SLIDE
Huup!


OH WOW! I THOUGHT THIS WAS A BIG FOREST, BUT IT'S A SHRINE.
KANA, YOU GET LOST EASILY, SO I WANT YOU TO REMEMBER THESE SURROUND-INGS.
IT'S BAD ENOUGH WE HAVE TO MOVE ALL THE TIME.
What the heck?!
WHA...?! YOU'RE LOST AL-READY?!
KANA?
JEEZ, DON'T WORRY ME LIKE THAT!
Kanaaa!
SIS!

I PICKED US UP A LITTLE SISTER.
Starting today, she will live with us!
SNIFFLE
H...HEY, WHERE'D YOU GET HER?!
SHE WAS JUST LYING THERE.
Probably abandoned...
There, there.
Meee~!
Now, now, don't cry! Where're you from?
Myaaah!


STOPPIT, ROBBER!
SIS-SIE...!
AH! THERE SHE IS!
SUE-CHAAAN!
NOO! SHE'S MY LITTLE SISTER!
HEY, LET HER GO!
SHE'S YOUR LITTLE SISTER? SORRY 'BOUT THAT.
Give 'er back, you!
I see.
G-GOOD MORNING...
SO THAT'S WHY THE KAWAMOTO GIRL ALWAYS SEEMS SO APOLOGETIC WHEN SHE SAYS HI.
Morning.


ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT.
WE CAN GO NOW?
CHI-CHAN!
WE KNOW.
AND YOU GIRLS BE CAREFUL, TOO.
NO GOING ANYWHERE DANGER-OUS.
WE KNOW.
DON'T TAKE YOUR EYES OFF HER.
P-SHAK
SCAMPER
SCAMPER
I KNOW THEY'RE NOT GONNA LISTEN, THOUGH.

A CentaUr's Life

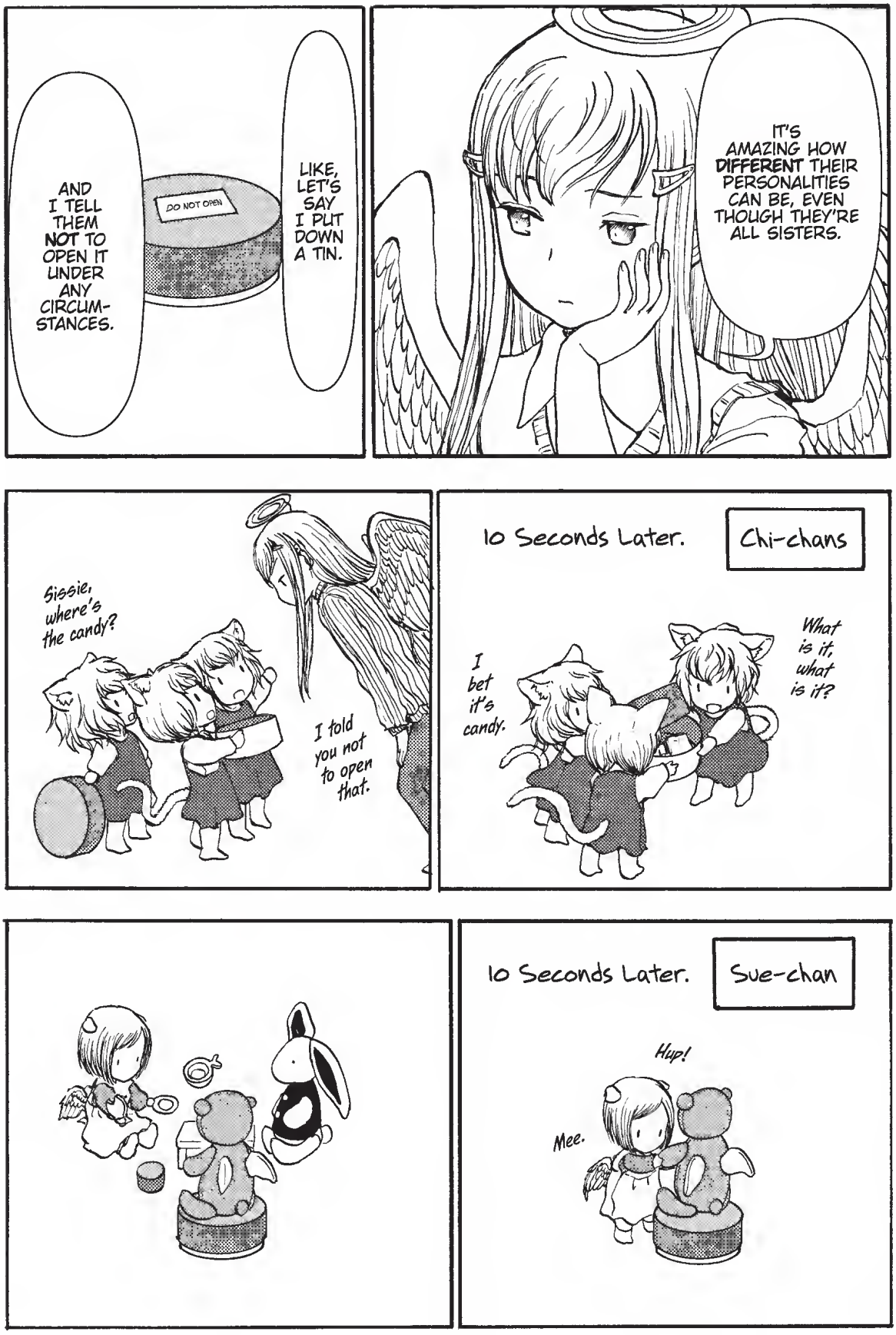
TRADITIONAL DRESS FROM AROUND THE WORLD (COLOMBIA)

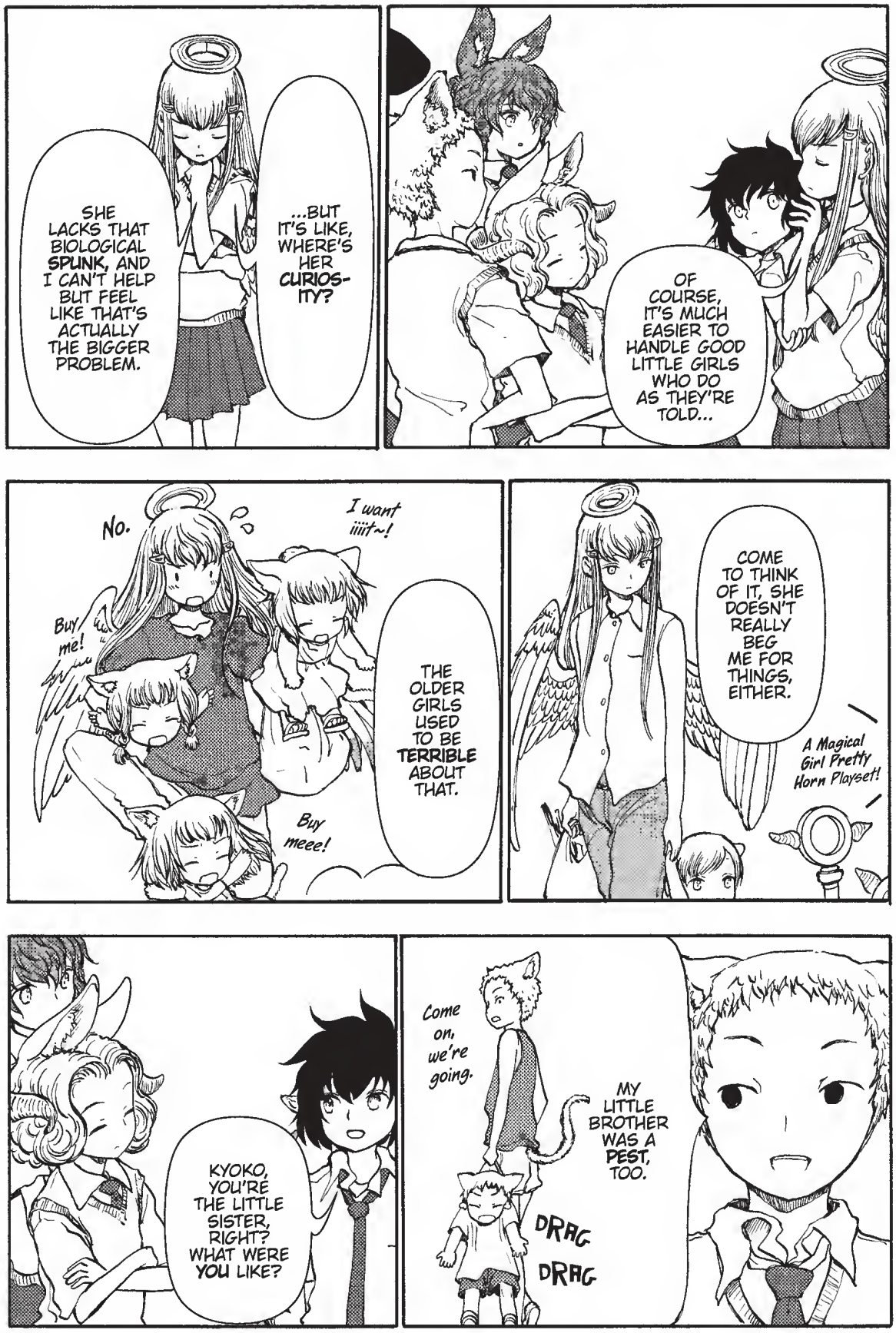
THE AMPHIBIANFOLK ARE NATIVE TO TROPICAL RAIN FORESTS SPANNING COLOMBIA, VENEZUELA, AND BRAZIL, PARTICULARLY IN AREAS ADJACENT TO RIVERS. THE DEROGATORY TERM "FROG PEOPLE" HAS GIVEN WAY TO AN IMAGE OF PEOPLE WITH WET, MUCOUSY SKIN, BUT THAT'S NOT PARTICULARLY ACCURATE. IN REALITY, THEIR SKIN RESPIRATION IS COMPARABLE TO THAT OF A MAMMALIAN HUMAN, THOUGH THEY ARE MORE VULNERABLE TO DRY SKIN. THUS, THEY ARE ABLE TO WEAR THE SAME CLOTHES AS MAMMALIAN HUMANS (ALBEIT IN DIFFERENT MEASUREMENTS), AND INDEED YOU ARE LIKELY TO SPOT AMPHIBIANFOLK IN T-SHIRTS OR WAISTCLOTHS. THAT SAID, SINCE AMPHIBIANFOLK LEAD LIVES DIVIDED BETWEEN WATER AND LAND, IT IS NOT COMMON TO SEE THEM WEARING VERY MUCH, AND INDEED THEIR CULTURE HAS NO PARTICULAR RESERVATIONS ABOUT NUDITY.

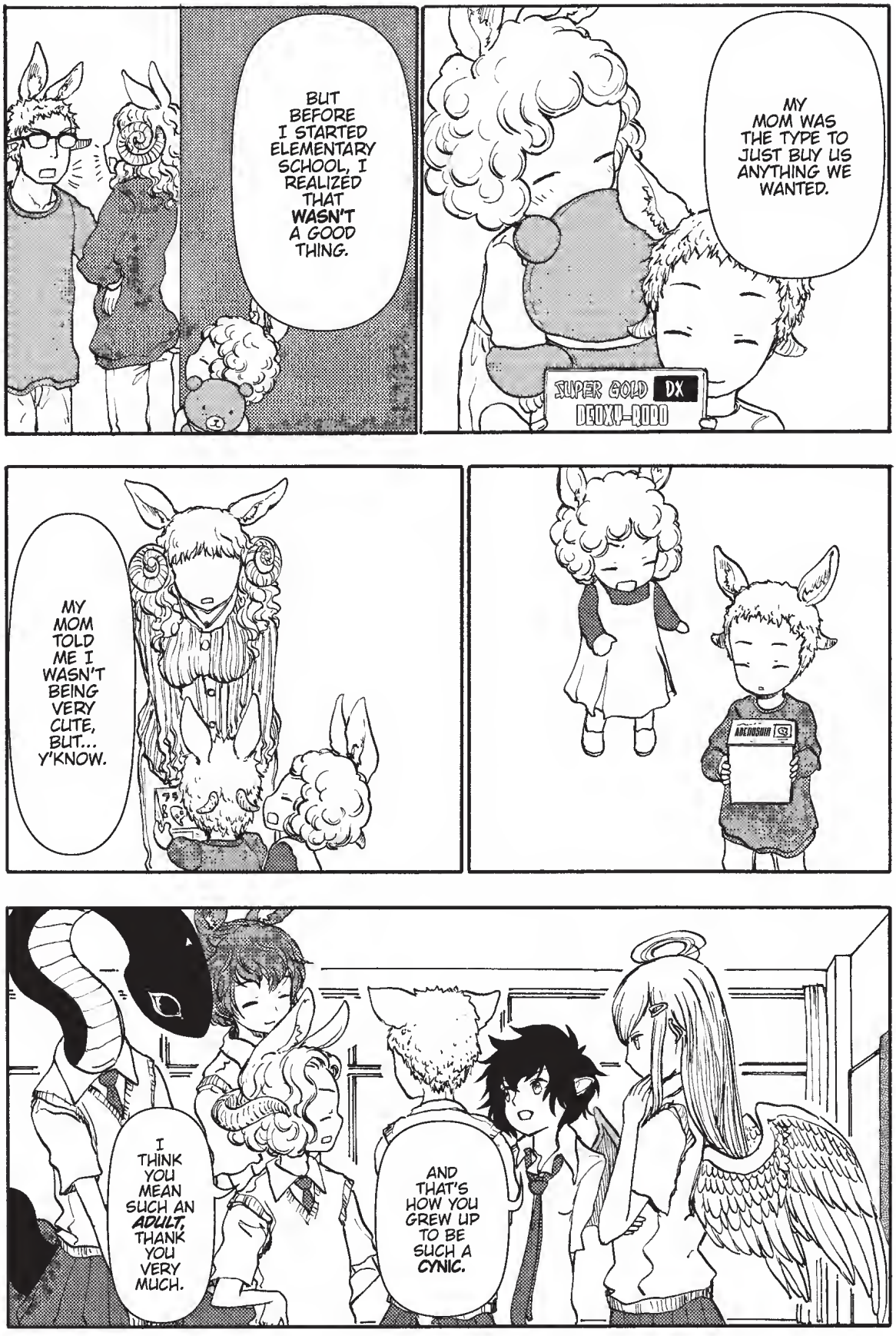
MORE REMARKABLE ARE THE BITS OF JEWELRY WORN BY AMPHIBIANFOLK AS PERSONAL ORNAMENTS, MOST OF WHICH ARE MADE OF GOLD. THOUGH DIFFICULT TO PRODUCE OR OBTAIN, IT IS LIKELY THAT THEY PREFER GOLD MAINLY BECAUSE IT DOESN'T RUST. HANDMADE MASKS WHICH MIMIC MAMMALIAN HUMAN FACES BEAR A STRONG RESEMBLANCE TO THOSE WORN BY THE ANTARCTICANS LIVING AMONGST MAMMALIAN HUMANS, AND IT IS UNKNOWN IN WHICH CULTURE THEY ACTUALLY ORIGINATED. IN EITHER CASE, THESE MASKS SERVE AS EVIDENCE OF INTERACTION WITH MAMMALIAN HUMANS PRIOR TO THE MODERN AGE. THE GOLDEN JEWELRY, MEANWHILE, WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE GREAT MISFORTUNE OF ATTRACTING THE ATTENTION OF EUROPEAN CONQUISTADORS, WHO WOULD LONG PERSECUTE AMPHIBIANFOLK AS "FROGS AND NEWTS RIPE FOR THE KILL," LEADING TO THE MASSIVE LOSS OF PRECIOUS CULTURAL ARTIFACTS.

THOUGH THERE ARE EXAMPLES OF AMPHIBIAN-FOLK, SUCH AS JEAN ROUSSEAU, SECURING POSITIONS OF HIGH ESTEEM WITHIN MAMMALIAN SOCIETY, THE FACT THAT THIS MANNER OF DISCRIMINATION IS STILL SO DEEPLY ROOTED SERVES AS DEPLORABLE EVIDENCE OF ITS OWN FOOLISH INJUSTICE.

CHAPTER 52
WHAT'S UP, PREZ? WORRIED ABOUT MAKING KIDS AGAIN?
RAISING KIDS.


IT'S AMAZING HOW DIFFERENT THEIR PERSONALITIES CAN BE, EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE ALL SISTERS.
LIKE, LET'S SAY I PUT DOWN A TIN.
DO NOT OPEN
AND I TELL THEM NOT TO OPEN IT UNDER ANY CIRCUM-STANCES.
Sissie, where's the candy?
I told you not to open that.
10 Seconds Later.
Chi-chans
I bet it's candy.
What is it, what is it?
10 Seconds Later.
Sue-chan
Hup!
Mee.

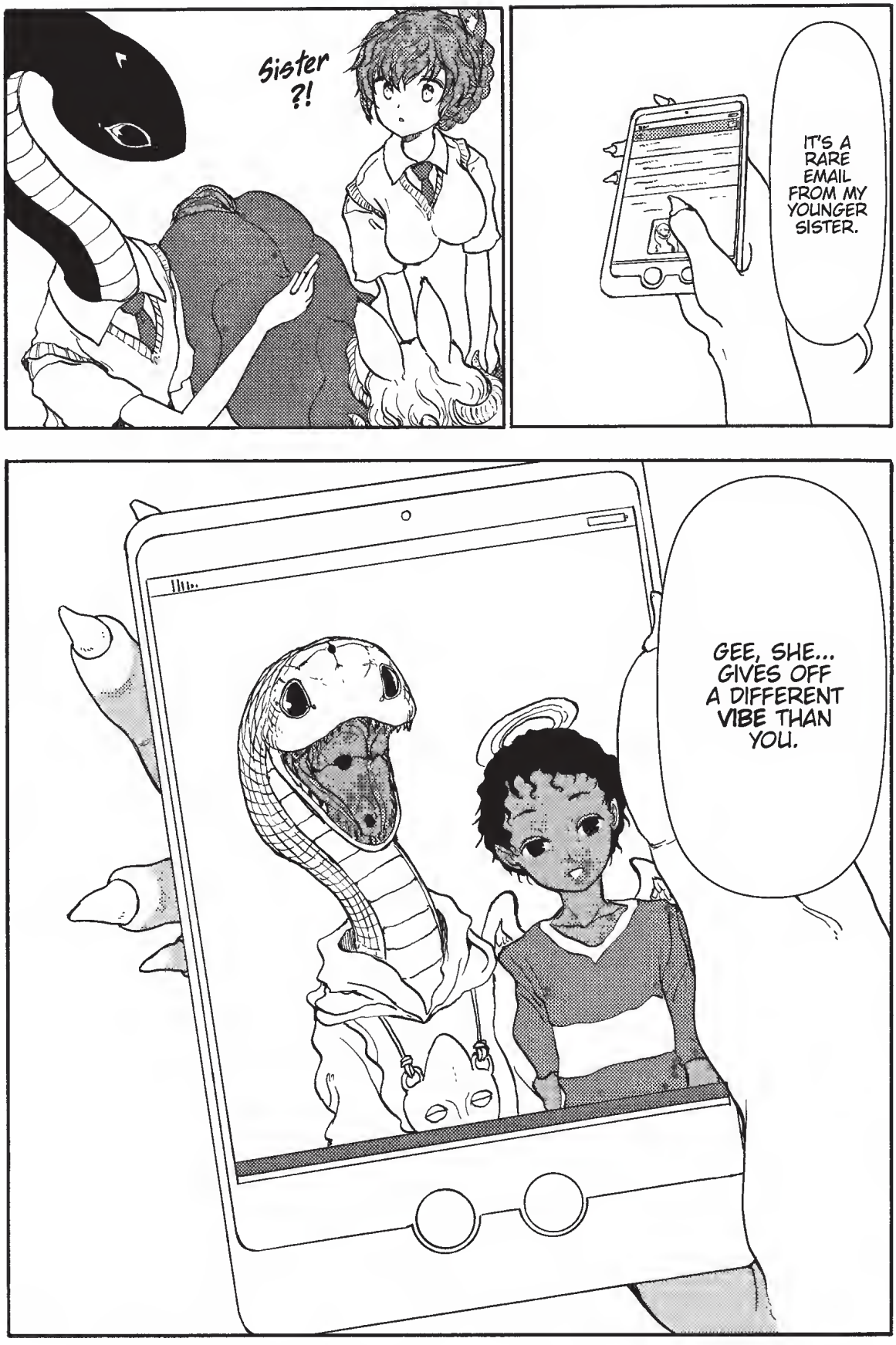

SHE LACKS THAT BIOLOGICAL SPUNK, AND I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL LIKE THAT'S ACTUALLY THE BIGGER PROBLEM.
...BUT IT'S LIKE, WHERE'S HER CURIOSITY?
OF COURSE, IT'S MUCH EASIER TO HANDLE GOOD LITTLE GIRLS WHO DO AS THEY'RE TOLD...
No.
I want iiiit~!
Buy me!
Buy meee!
THE OLDER GIRLS USED TO BE TERRIBLE ABOUT THAT.
COME TO THINK OF IT, SHE DOESN'T REALLY BEG ME FOR THINGS, EITHER.
A Magical Girl Pretty Horn Playset!
KYOKO, YOU'RE THE LITTLE SISTER, RIGHT? WHAT WERE YOU LIKE?
Come on, we're going.
MY LITTLE BROTHER WAS A PEST, TOO.
DRAG
DRAG

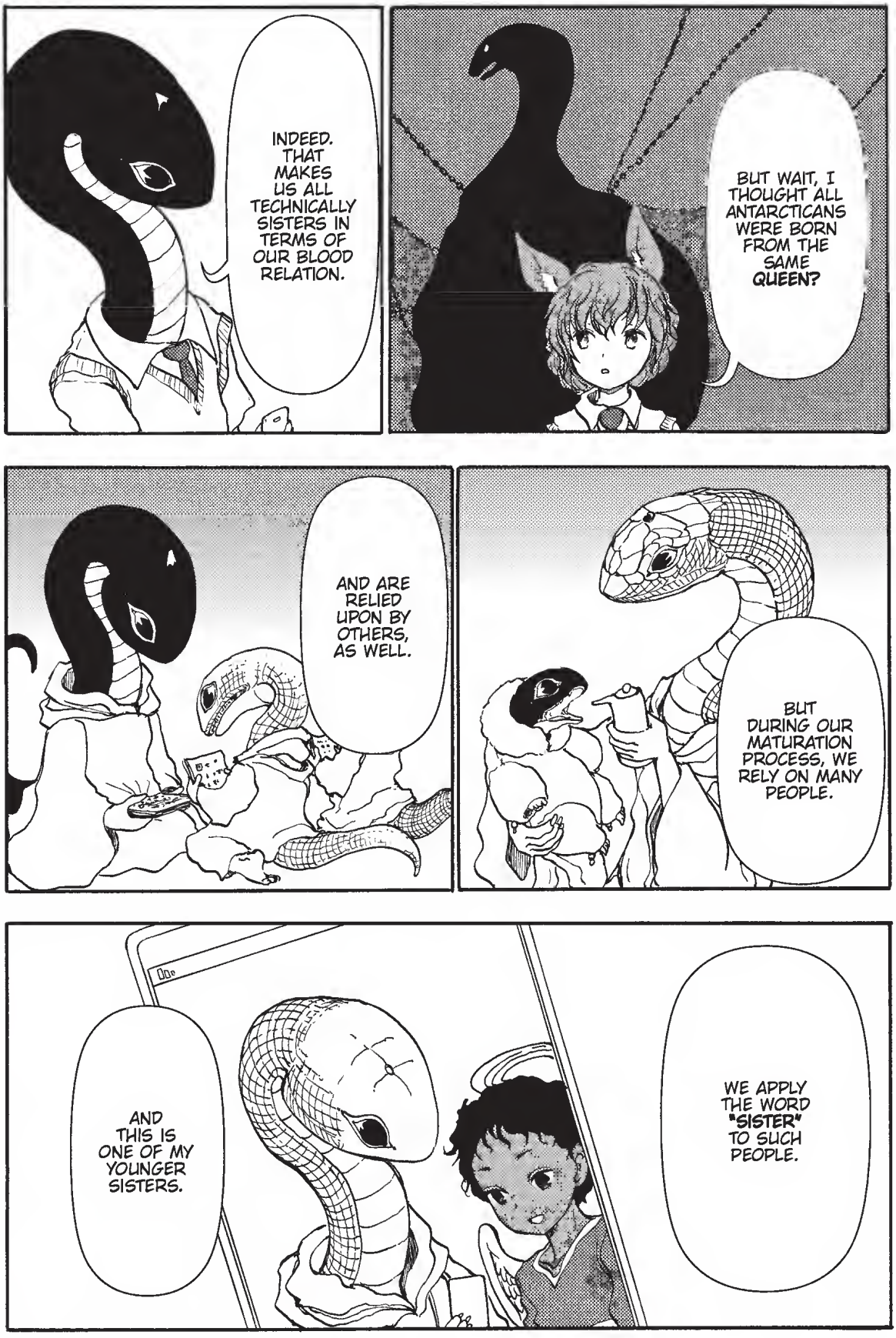

BUT BEFORE I STARTED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, I REALIZED THAT WASN'T A GOOD THING.
MY MOM WAS THE TYPE TO JUST BUY US ANYTHING WE WANTED.
SUPER GOLD DX
DEOXY-ROBO
MY MOM TOLD ME I WASN'T BEING VERY CUTE, BUT... Y'KNOW.
I THINK YOU MEAN SUCH AN ADULT, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
AND THAT'S HOW YOU GREW UP TO BE SUCH A CYNIC.

HMM, YEAH. IT'LL BE NICE IF I CAN RAISE THEM TO BE HEAD-STRONG LIKE YOU.
BUT IT *ISN'T* VERY CUTE.
WHY, I OUGHTA ...
HIME, WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH *YOUR* LITTLE NUGGET?
WHAT, SHINO-CHAN?
WELL, WE'RE NOT REALLY SISTERS, WE'RE **COUSINS.** SO SHE'S USUALLY PRETTY GOOD AROUND ME.
THOUGH, WHEN SHE WAS *REALLY* LITTLE, SHE COULDN'T TELL ME APART FROM HER MOTHER.
I want that! Get me that!
SO SHE THREW A FEW TAN-TRUMS.
Sorry, but I don't even have any money.
No! Get me it!

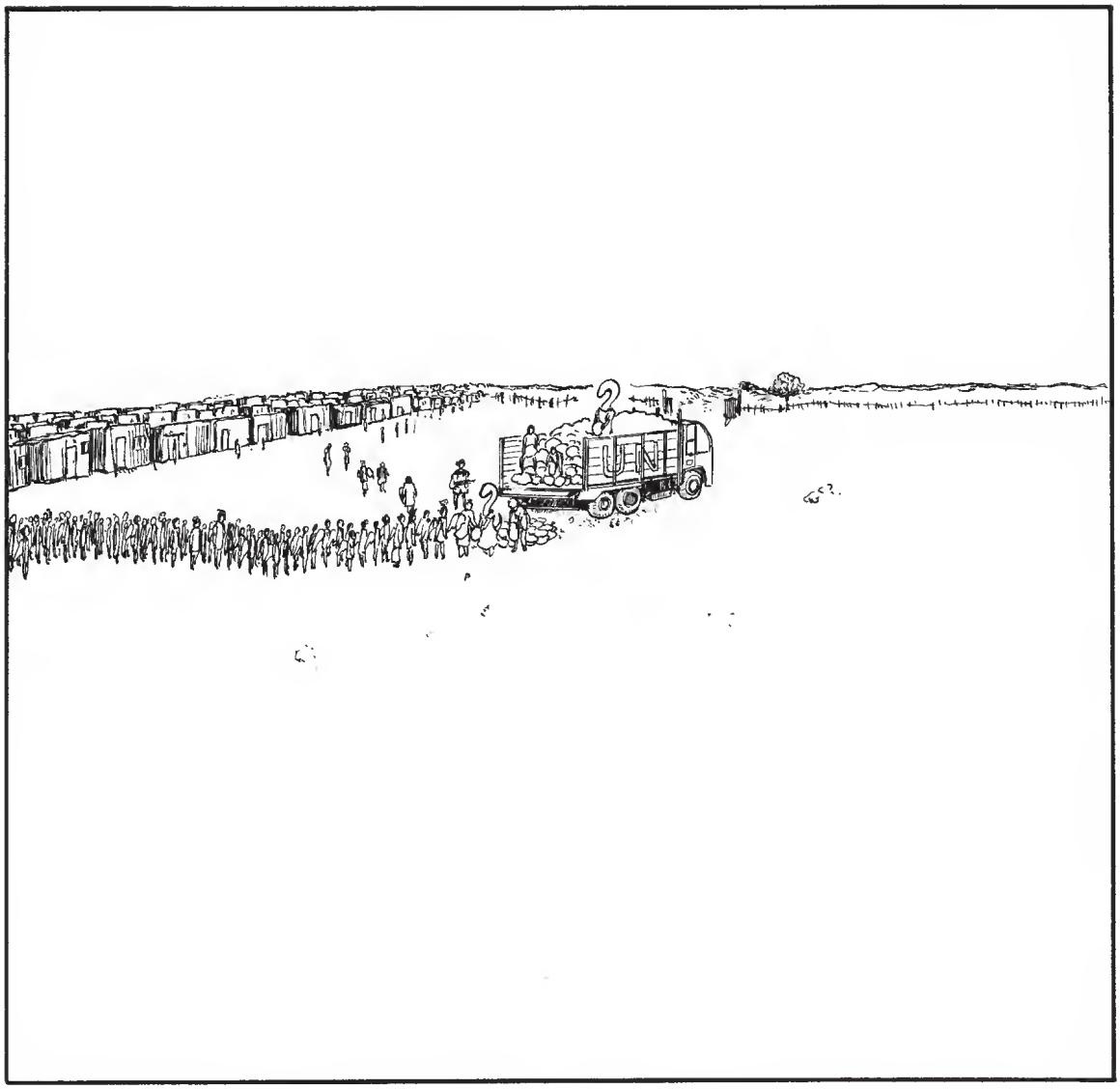
NO, NO, NO!
NO!
Shino-chan, please.
No!
STOMP STOMP
SNIFF SNIFF
You can't...
Hey look, there's a fountain over there!

THOUGH, I'M NOT SURE I COULD PULL THAT OFF.
THAT DOES SEEM EFFECT-IVE.
Eh heh...
You mean, you've got little kids taking pity on you?
WELL, IT IS A KARATE DOJO.
CAN YOU DO THAT NOWA-DAYS?
WHEN THE LITTLE SQUIRTS AT MY DOJO ACT UP, WE GIVE 'EM ONE OF THESE.
SPANK

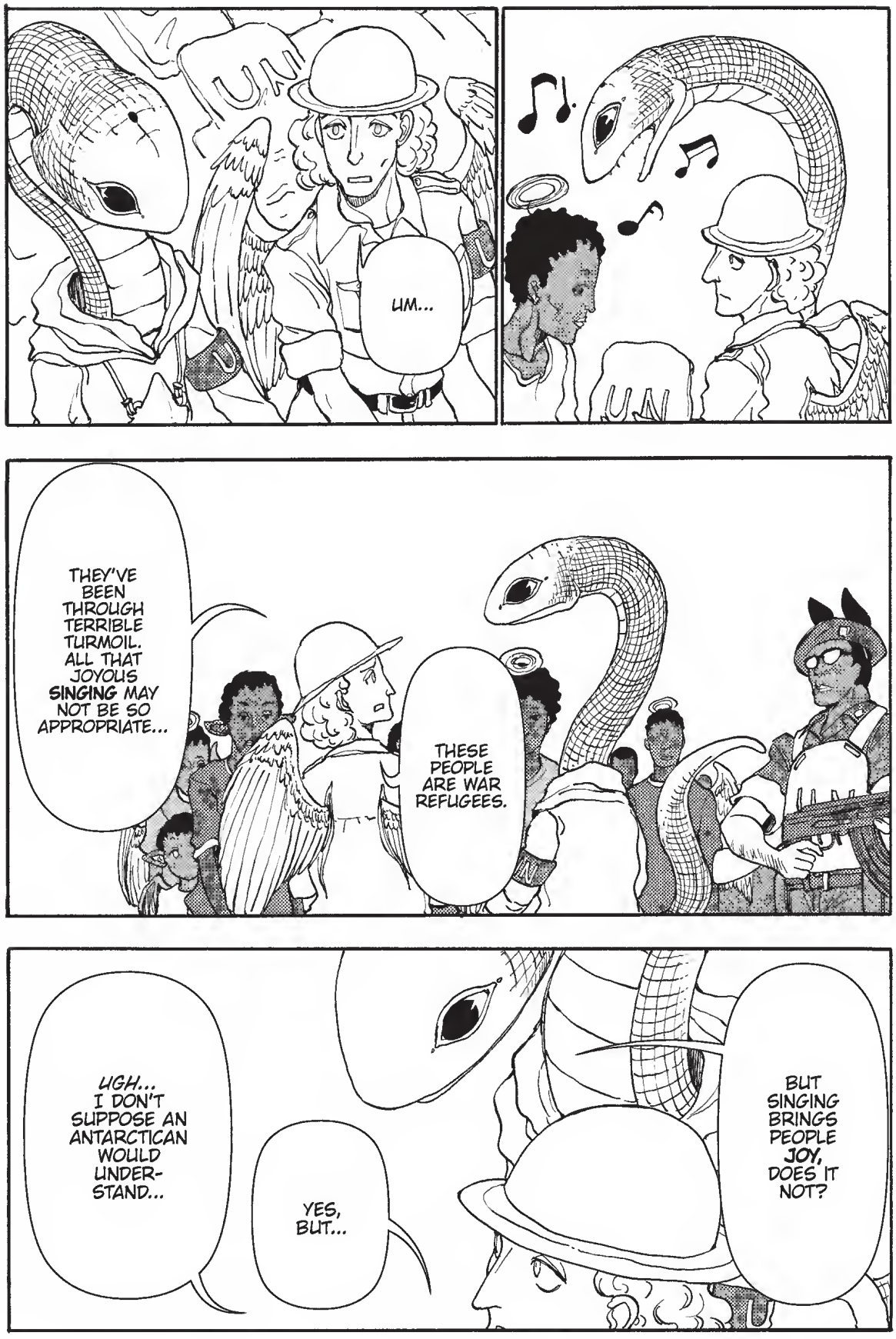

Sister ?!
IT'S A RARE EMAIL FROM MY YOUNGER SISTER.
GEE, SHE... GIVES OFF A DIFFERENT VIBE THAN YOU.


INDEED. THAT MAKES US ALL TECHNICALLY SISTERS IN TERMS OF OUR BLOOD RELATION.
BUT WAIT, I THOUGHT ALL ANTARCTICANS WERE BORN FROM THE SAME QUEEN?
AND ARE RELIED UPON BY OTHERS, AS WELL.
BUT DURING OUR MATURATION PROCESS, WE RELY ON MANY PEOPLE.
AND THIS IS ONE OF MY YOUNGER SISTERS.
WE APPLY THE WORD "SISTER" TO SUCH PEOPLE.

MAINLY BECAUSE SHE CAUSED SO MUCH **TROUBLE.**
THIS ONE STANDS OUT AMONGST ALL THE OTHERS.
WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU DON'T?
A LONG TIME AGO, YOU WOULD'VE BEEN **ABANDONED.**
I'M AMAZED THAT SHE MADE IT THROUGH THE **PSYCHO-LOGICAL EXAMS.**
It was enough to give you chills.
Gee, scary stuff.
NOWADAYS, THEY PUT YOU THROUGH A **PERSONALITY READJUSTMENT** AND THEN APPOINT YOU TO A SPECIAL **VOCATION.**

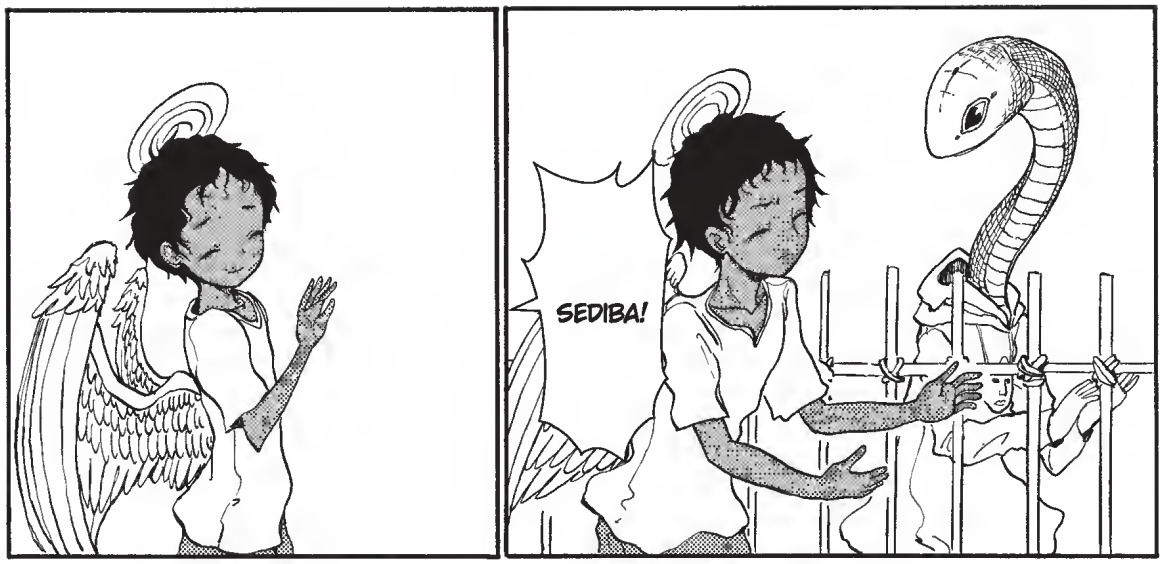

UN

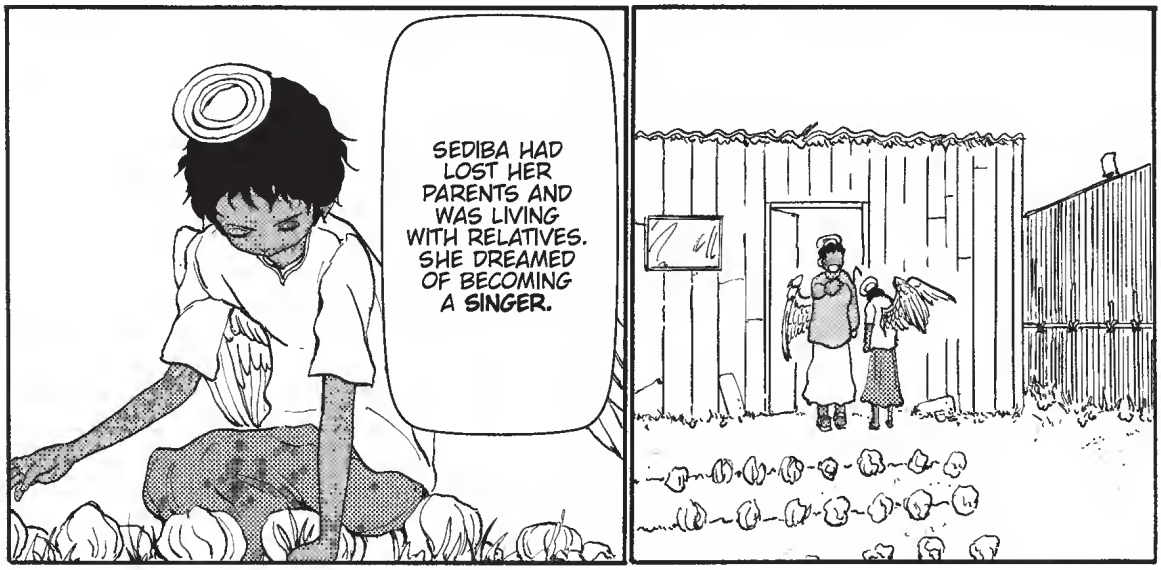
UN
UN
UN

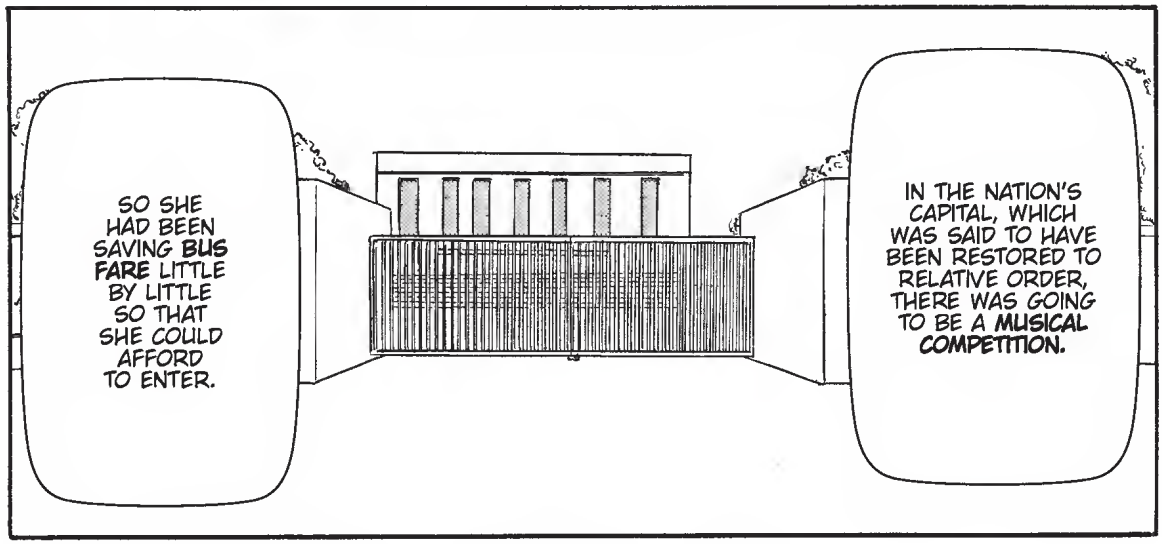

UM...
THEY'VE BEEN THROUGH TERRIBLE TURMOIL. ALL THAT JOYOUS **SINGING** MAY NOT BE SO APPROPRIATE...
THESE PEOPLE ARE WAR REFUGEES.
BUT SINGING BRINGS PEOPLE **JOY,** DOES IT NOT?
YES, BUT...
UGH... I DON'T SUPPOSE AN ANTARCTICAN WOULD UNDER-STAND...

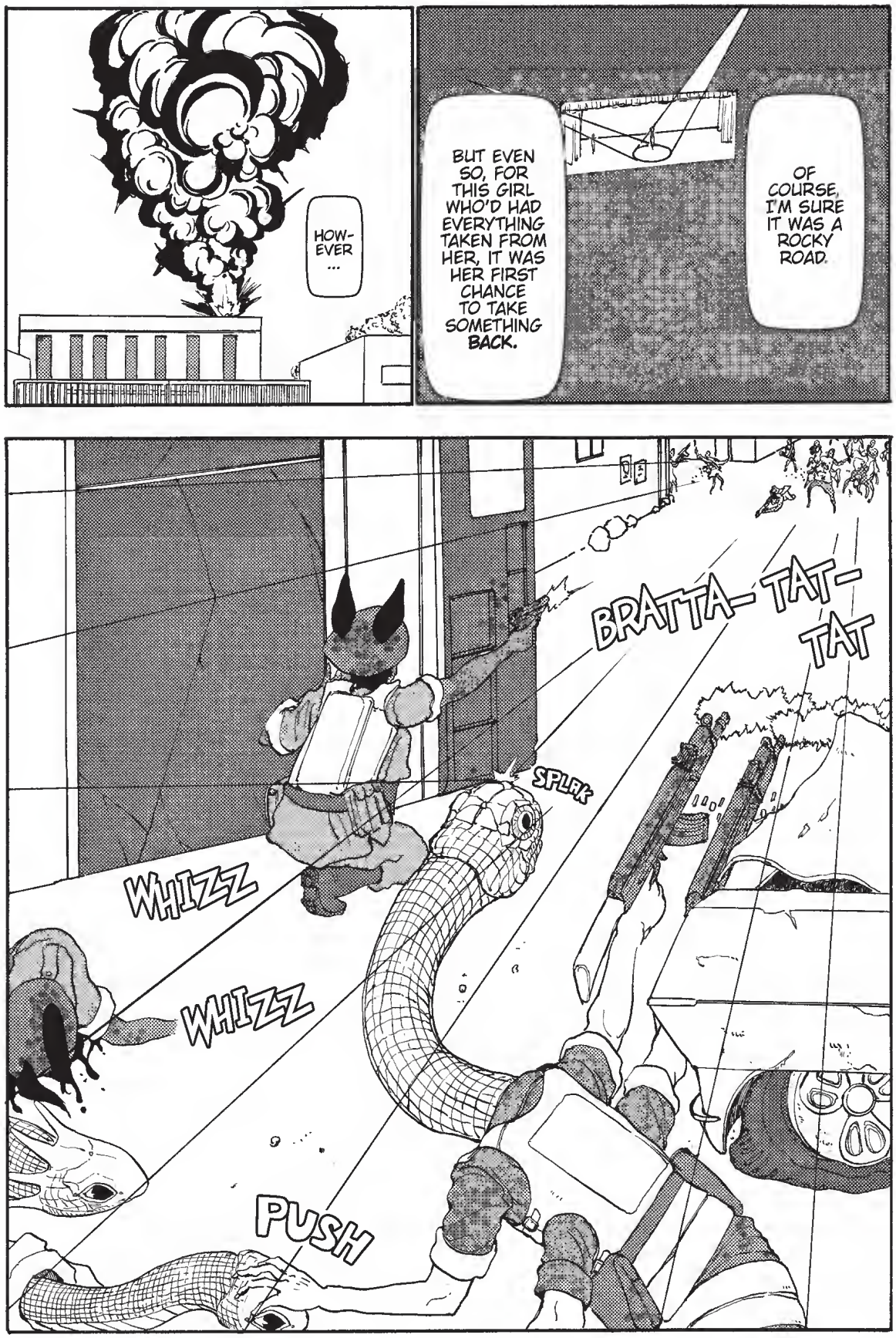
All done!
HUH? WHERE ARE YOU GOING? IT'S DANGER-OUS TO BE WANDERING AROUND.
UN

SWOOSH
THOF
FROOF
HSSS

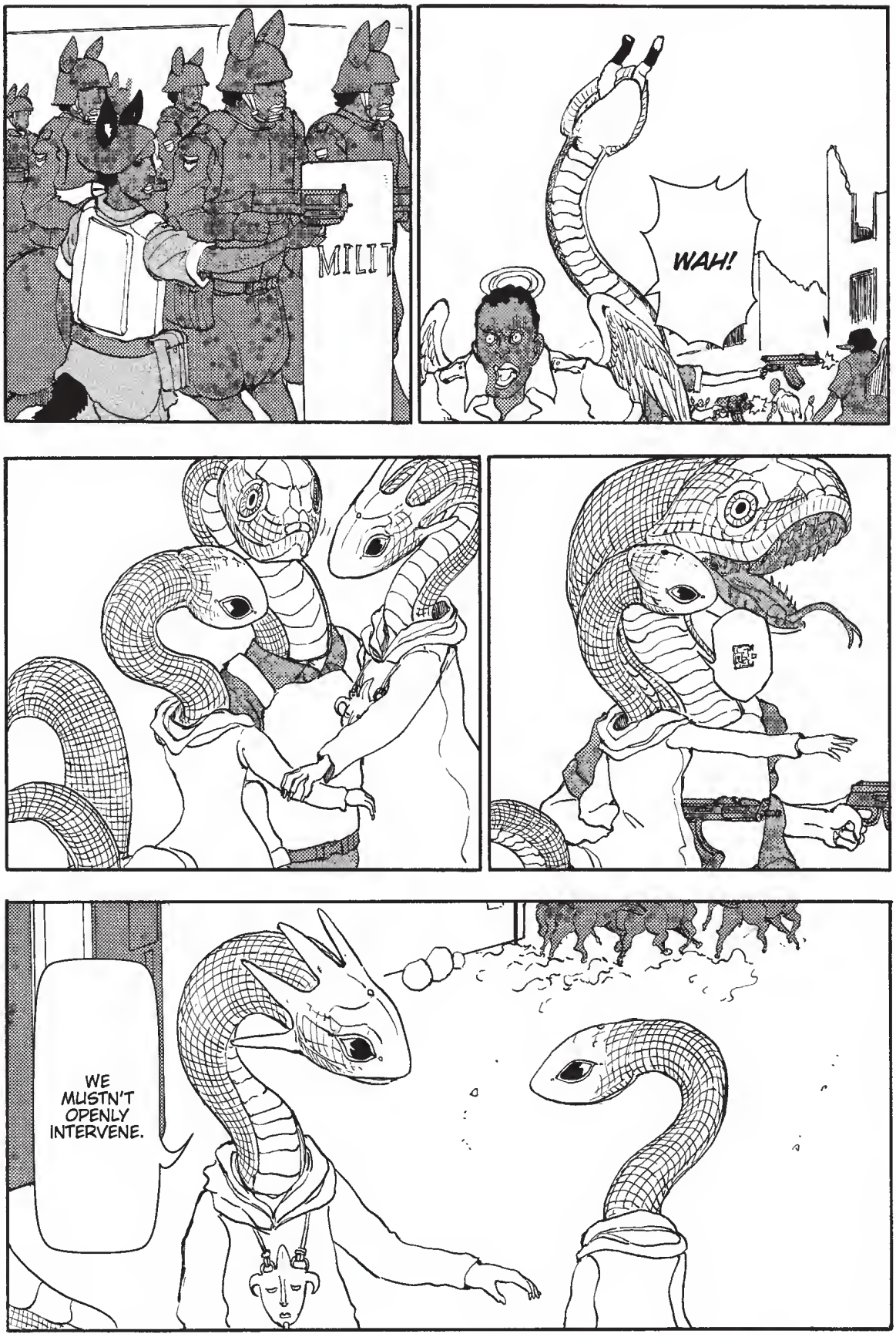

SEDIBA!


SEDIBA HAD LOST HER PARENTS AND WAS LIVING WITH RELATIVES. SHE DREAMED OF BECOMING A **SINGER.**


SO SHE HAD BEEN SAVING **BUS FARE** LITTLE BY LITTLE SO THAT SHE COULD AFFORD TO ENTER.
IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL, WHICH WAS SAID TO HAVE BEEN RESTORED TO RELATIVE ORDER, THERE WAS GOING TO BE A **MUSICAL COMPETITION.**


HOW-EVER ...
BUT EVEN SO, FOR THIS GIRL WHO'D HAD EVERYTHING TAKEN FROM HER, IT WAS HER FIRST CHANCE TO TAKE SOMETHING BACK.
OF COURSE, I'M SURE IT WAS A ROCKY ROAD.
BRATTA- TAT- TAT
SPLAK
WHIZZ
WHIZZ
PUSH

FWUMP
BRRATTA-
TATTA
FREAK!
FWIP
BLAM BLAM
BLAM BLAM BLAM
BUDDA-
UDDA-UDDA
CHOMP


MILIT
WAH!
WE MUSTN'T OPENLY INTERVENE.

THEN SHOULDN'T WE JUST REDRAW THE LINE BETWEEN RIGHT AND WRONG?
WE HAVE THE POWER.
LISTEN WELL. THE AFFAIRS OF THESE HUMANS ARE RARELY A SIMPLE MATTER OF RIGHT VERSUS WRONG.
BUT THOSE MEN...!
FEAR OF DEATH OR POVERTY IN THE EVENT OF FAILURE, SYMPATHY FOR THE DEFEATED, SHAME, SLOTH, AMBIVALENCE-- NONE OF THESE THINGS EXIST TO ANTARCTICANS.
THE EMOTIONS OF THE MAMMAL-HUMANS ARE BOTH WONDERFUL AND DANGEROUS, AND THEY HAVE MANY INHIBITIONS WHEN IT COMES TO TRANSFERRING THOSE EMOTIONS TO ACTIONS.
MY SISTER IS--HOW YOU SAY-- VERY MAMMALIAN IN HER THINKING, AND IT CONCERNS ME.
HOW EXACTLY IS HUMANKIND PERCEIVED IN ANTARCTICA?
CULTURAL EDUCATION IS TOUGH STUFF.
I'M WORRIED ABOUT MY SISTER NOW. I'M GOING TO TRY CALLING HER.

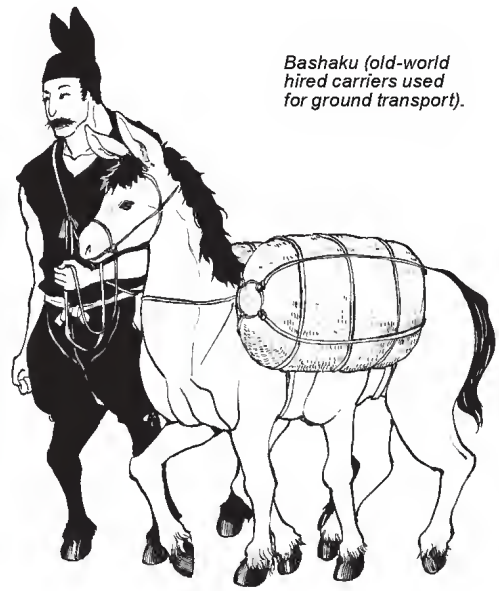
A CentaUr's Life

FWAHH
AFTERWORD...
SHEEOONG
FYOOSH
QUITE RIGHT.
WE WERE ONCE BROUGHT OVERSEAS AS TRANSLATORS BY YOUR ANCESTOR.
QUITE.
WE'RE GHOSTS.
WH-WHO ARE YOU?!

AND NO, WE'RE NOT HERE TO CURSE YOU.
WELL, THE WAY GHOSTS LOOK REALLY DEPENDS ON WHO'S DOING THE LOOKING.
I've gotta go call Tama-chan.
BUT WAIT, IF YOU'RE WESTERN GHOSTS, WHY DON'T YOU HAVE FEET?
SO, YOU'VE COME TO CLEAR A GRUDGE?
AFTER-WARDS, THEY EVEN GAVE US TIPS ON HOW TO AMASS A FORTUNE.
THOSE MEN MAY HAVE BEEN VIOLENT, BUT THEY WERE ALSO QUITE GENEROUS.
JINGLE JANGLE
'Twas our first appearance in quite some time.
BUT WHY NOW? WHY ME?
YES, WELL, IT'S NOT OFTEN THAT YOUR FAMILY BRINGS THIS STORY UP, YOU SEE.
HIME-CHAN, IS EVERY-THING ALL RIGHT?
WE CAME TO SAY ONLY THAT.
IT'S JUST THAT WE PLAYED A FAIRLY PIVOTAL ROLE, ONLY TO THEN BE BARELY INCLUDED IN THE STORY AS A MERE SIDELINE ACCESSORY. IT'S MOST UNFORTU-NATE.

THE TRUE IMAGE OF THE *BUSHI*

*Bushi** are centaurs--this idea is still strongly held in today's world. Indeed, even in recent history, samurai were all portrayed as centaurs in popular period dramas. And yes, there was an intrinsic belief even amongst *bushi* that the vocation was, at heart, one of a centaur. In reality, however, the *bushi* class comprised a diverse range of humans.



Bashaku (old-world hired carriers used for ground transport).

In ancient dynasties, militaries were scraped together from soldiers belonging to powerful aristocratic families; under the *ritsuryou* system, they were formed through mandatory military service. But as occupations eventually became divided by clan, inevitably clans specializing in military affairs emerged. Among them, the En clan and Hou clan were quintessential. These clans were able to repel the horseback guerilla tactics of foreign, northern invaders by establishing a small but elite military consisting solely of swift-footed centaurs armed with bows. It is true that at this point in time, *bushi* were all centaurs. However, as these *bushi* clans were roped into civil disputes within the dynasty, the two pillars of military leadership that were the En and Hou soon began to vie for supremacy. What had previously been militaries composed of several dozen or several hundred units exploded practically overnight into militaries with tens of thousands of units. However, there were considerably fewer centaurs in ancient times than there are in the modern day, and there were simply not enough to fulfill the tremendous demand. Hence, a new class of warrior emerged in the clash between En and Hou--wealthy aristocrats and strong farmers, who were neither centaurs nor *bushi*, mounted horses and took to arms. In return for their service, they were allowed control over territory or *shôen*. But these "overnight soldiers," who now accounted for the majority of each clan's military force, were incapable of engaging in battle tactics which required a great amount of skill with, say, firing a bow. Instead, they began to engage the enemy up close, approaching on horse, grappling, and taking the head of the opponent. The odd image of two intertwined centaurs once common in *Taiga dorama* series** likely originates from this.

After the establishment of the Kamikura Bakufu, the percentage of *bushi* who were centaurs once again rose to some degree. This is likely due to the new class of *bushi* frequently intermarrying with centaur lineage within the En and Hou clans. Centaurs did not account for the majority of *bushi****, but *only* centaurs could claim to be of legitimate military families. There are even accounts of non-centaurs interbreeding with centaurs who were *not* of a *bushi* lineage (or *any* notable lineage, for that matter), or otherwise adopting centaurs as their children.

**Bushi: A Japanese warrior; a samurai.*

***Taiga drama, the name of an annual historical fiction TV show broadcast in Japan.*

****Indeed, not all centaurs were bushi. Bushi were actually a minority within the centaur race, while most were, like other humans, simple farmers or members of other occupations. Of particular note, many centaurs traditionally worked as bashaku--hired horses used for transport. This was akin to the merfolk's monopolization of the navy. Likewise akin was this monopoly's collapse in more recent history.*

Research has suggested that a great number of *bushi* family lines were established in this way.

During the *Sengoku* period, the ratio of centaurs to all *bushi* once again declined. The most vital thing demanded of samurai was neither a strong family lineage nor even military prowess--it was how many men one had under his control. One's ability and experience as a commander was valued above all. In the face of new logical tactics, firearms, and advanced citadel structures, the quick feet and sturdy frames of centaurs no longer provided quite the battlefield advantage that they once had. And indeed, there are not many *Sengoku* daimyo family lines which can be confirmed to have had a multi-generational centaur bloodline. Toyotomi Hideyoshi is well known to have been a draconid*, but even the ultimate ruler of this household, Tokugawa Ieyasu, was in fact goatfolk, despite portraits falsely depicting him as a centaur. It wasn't until the reign of the fifth shogun, Tsunayoshi, that the Tokugawa clan adopted a centaur bloodline**. Even then, the clan continued to frequently bear non-centaur offspring, such as eighth shogun Yoshimune. Nevertheless, the ideal of the centaur bushi, perhaps propagated by literary works such as the *Tale of Houke,* has prevailed to this day.

If one detaches from these popular colloquial myths and simply observes the historical facts, however, one will find that at no point was any one species ever singled out and enslaved by any other. The Western concept of observing history through the lens of "species-based class conflict" was rather born out of the West's morally scarred history of keeping centaurs as slaves and systemized extermination of the merfolk, and in no way applies to our nation. Our nation, with its beautiful history of cooperation and coexistence amongst a diverse people, must, as a world leader, rectify this widespread fallacy and lead others to the truth.

KANATA UNDER THE TOKUGAWA REGIME

After the demise of the Oda clan, Hidachi mostly fell under the rule of the Satake clan, but in 1602 (Keichou 7), the clan underwent *ryôchi-gae* (change of territory), shifting its domain to Idewa and leaving Hidachi behind. Thereafter, control of southern Hidachi, which encompassed the region of modern-day Kanata, would pass through the hands of several long-established daimyo clans. This includes the Yuuki, who would pepper the domain with tens of thousands of small enclaves--retainer domains, Bakufu domains, and religious domains. Oda castle became an abandoned ruin, and Kanata reverted to mere farmland. The tides of change, however, were sure to come.

**Even the famous swordsman Miyamoto Musashi was but a mere ashigaru soldier--the lowest ranking foot soldier--during his service in the Shimabara Rebellion. Nevertheless, he worked so ceaselessly and humbly, never once boasting his above-average centaur frame or martial art prowess, that he even sustained serious injury from hurling boulders.*

***The Oda clan oft referenced in this text, as well as their sworn enemy the Satake clan, did maintain multi-generational centaur bloodlines dating back to the En-Hou period.*

SEVEN SEAS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

A Centaur's Life

story and art by **KEI MURAYAMA**

VOLUME 8

TRANSLATION
Greg Moore

ADAPTATION
Holly Kolodziejczak

LETTERING AND LAYOUT
Jennifer Skarupa

LOGO DESIGN
Courtney Williams

COVER DESIGN
Nicky Lim

PROOFREADER
Patrick King

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Lissa Pattillo

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Adam Arnold

PUBLISHER
Jason DeAngelis

CENTAUR NO NAYAMI VOLUME 8
© KEI MURAYAMA 2014
Originally published in Japan in 2014 by TOKUMA SHOTEN PUBLISHING CO., LTD., Tokyo. English translation rights arranged with TOKUMA SHOTEN PUBLISHING CO., LTD., Tokyo, through TOHAN CORPORATION, Tokyo.

No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form without written permission from the copyright holders. This is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locals, or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

Seven Seas books may be purchased in bulk for educational, business, or promotional use. For information on bulk purchases, please contact Macmillan Corporate & Premium Sales Department at 1-800-221-7945 (ext 5442) or write specialmarkets@macmillan.com.

Seven Seas and the Seven Seas logo are trademarks of Seven Seas Entertainment, LLC. All rights reserved.

ISBN: 978-1-626922-36-5

Printed in Canada

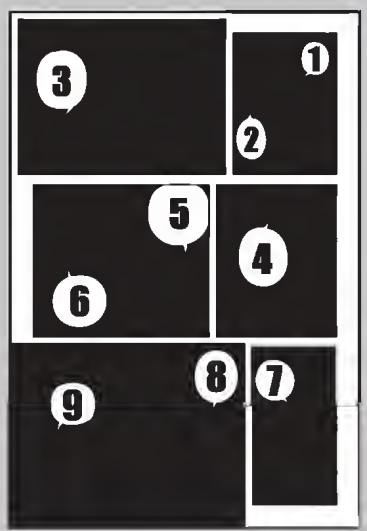
First Printing: March 2016

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

FOLLOW US ONLINE: ***www.gomanga.com***

READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from ***right to left***, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get the hang of it! Have fun!!



Hime, Kyoko, and Nozomi shadow Suu while she is out on a date, and happen to run into some other classmates out on a date as well. We learn more tales of Hime's ancestors, and the class prez frets about child-rearing, all in Volume 8!

A CENTAUR IN DISGUISE

OLDER TEEN (16+)

Seven Seas Entertainment, LLC.
www.gomanga.com
Distributed by Macmillan